

THE **FREE** SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO NEW PRODUCTS!



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Pantech Slate p. 66



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Look Beyond Your HDTV For HD p.40

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Editor's Note

CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU MAY THINK, high-definition content isn't limited to an HDTV and an upper tier of pricey cable channels. In fact, HD is everywhere, and not as costly as many would assume. Did you know that you can access HD signals for free with an OTA (over-the-air) antenna attached to an HDTV? Perhaps the home theater of your dreams isn't as expensive and far off into the future as you had originally thought. Are you familiar with the possibilities of recording your home movies in high-definition video? In the past year, HD camcorders have become very popular and ubiquitous, leaving many HD videographers with distaste for their former SD video-recording past. It's pretty safe to say that once you've captured memories in HD, you won't want to shoot in any other video format.

Because HD is becoming more integrated into our lifestyles, all sorts of people—from tweens to businesspeople to retirees—can take advantage of this stunning technology. High-def capabilities can be found on mobile devices, personal media players, computers, and more. In this month's issue of *First Glimpse*, we hope to introduce you to the different devices and sources that will let you enjoy a cutting-edge HD experience.



Ashley Kumpula

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The Latest Arrivals

Look For These New Products

Keep an eye out for these products hitting Best Buy shelves for the first time. Some of the items listed below are showcased in this month's one-page product profiles, so be sure to take a look at the listed page numbers for more information.

Computers

Visiontek HD 4350 graphics card

BFG Tech Nvidia GeForce 9800 GT
OC 1GB PCI Express 2.0 Graphics
Card

BFG Tech Nvidia GeForce 9800
GTX+ OC 1GB PCI Express 2.0
Graphics Card

BFG Tech GX-550 550 Watt Power
Supply

See page 60

BFG Tech GS-450 450 Watt Power
Supply

Gateway Desktop DX4200-09

Movie & TV Releases

"Aqua Teen Hunger Force 6" DVD

"Bangkok Dangerous" DVD/BD

"Battlestar Galactica: Season 4.0"
DVD

"Deadwood: The Complete Series"
DVD

"Death Proof" BD

"Dexter: Complete First Season"
DVD

"Dodgeball: True Underdog Story"
BD

"Dragon Ball GT: Season 1" DVD

"Dumb and Dumber" BD

"Eagle Eye" DVD/BD

"Ghost Town" DVD

"Ghost" BD

"Gunsmoke: Third Season" DVD

"Happy Days: Fourth Season" DVD

"Horton Hears a Who" DVD/BD

"Kyle XY: Complete Second Season"
DVD

"Last Holiday" DVD/BD

"Little Mermaid II: Return to the
Sea" DVD

"Lost: The Complete Fourth
Season" DVD

"Mama Mia!" DVD/BD

"Man on Wire" DVD

"Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"
DVD

"Nip/Tuck: Complete Fifth Season"
DVD

"Pineapple Express" DVD/BD/UMD

"Planet Terror" BD

"Resident Evil Trilogy" DVD

"Resident Evil: Degeneration"
DVD/BD

"Righteous Kill" DVD/BD

"Serenity" BD

"Super Troopers" BD

"Swing Vote" DVD/BD

"The Cheetah Girls: One World"
DVD/BD

"The Dark Knight" DVD/BD

"The Duchess" DVD

"The Mummy Trilogy"
DVD/BD

"The Mummy: Tomb of the
Dragon Emperor" DVD/BD

"The Secret Life Of An
American Teenager: Season 1" DVD

"Wire: The Complete Series" DVD

Music Releases

"A Cross The Universe" Justice

"A Different Me" Keyshia Cole

"Afterwords" Collective Soul

"Avant" Avant

"Call And Response: The Remix
Album" Maroon 5

"Decade In The Sun: The Best Of
Stereophonics" Stereophonics

"Drift." Ken Block

"El Fenomeno" Arangel

"From The Heart" Aretha Franklin

"Human" Brandy

"Intuition" Jamie Foxx

"iSouljaBoyTell'em"
iSouljaBoyTell'em

"Kamalei: Collection Two"
Keali'i Reichel

"License To Chill" Jimmy Buffett

"Live At Mile High Music Festival"
Dave Matthews Band

"Live At The House Of Blues" CD &
DVD

"On My Radio" Musiq Soulchild

"Pretty Odd" Panic At The Disco

"Revolutions In Sound: Warner
Bros. Records The First Fifty Years"
Various Artists

"Rihanna Smooth Jazz Tribute"
Various Artists

"Spirit" Leona Lewis CD & DVD
with bonus tracks

"Tears Of An Angel" Kredulous

"The Dark Knight" Original sound-
track with bonus tracks

"The Point Of It All" Anthony
Hamilton

"Tour Fantasia Pop Live" Belanova
CD & DVD

"Transporter 3" Original Soundtrack

"Twilight: The Score" Original
soundtrack

"Voy" Alexander Acha

"Welcome To Scokland" Keak Da
Sneak & San Quinn

"When The World Comes Down"
All-American Rejects

"Word Gets Around" Stereophonics

"X" Kylie Minogue CD & DVD with
bonus tracks



ce news

COMPILED BY JENNIE SCHLUETER

MySpace Video Mobilizes

With the release of its MySpace Mobile video initiative, MySpace became the first social networking site to launch video streaming for mobile device users. The global beta is made possible with the help of RipCode, whose transcoding technology allows MySpace to stream content to several different devices despite differing bit rates, codecs, and resolutions. MySpace Mobile users can access all original MySpace content, as well as most premium content from such providers as TMZ and *The Onion*.



Demand For In-Car CE Grows

More and more consumers rely on consumer electronics devices for everyday convenience and enjoyment, so it's logical that their use would overlap with time spent in the car. A new study from the CEA (Consumer Electronics Association) has identified an emerging group it calls Technology Enthusiast Drivers. According to the study, 57% of these drivers would like to be able to wirelessly connect all of their portable devices to a central in-car system. These drivers tend to be early technology adopters, so their interest in in-car CE technology may signify a sign of things to come in cars. In fact, the CEA study found that sales of in-car CE devices would likely grow at an estimated rate of 13% to \$12.2 billion by the end of last year.

Google's Chrome Is Official

The company that began as just one of many search engines is today one of the most recognized names in computing vernacular. At the end of last year, Google once again expanded its horizons by making its beta browser, Chrome, official. After a short 100-day beta period, Chrome was released into the wild as a free download from Google's site to new users. A select few Chrome beta testers automatically received the Chrome upgrade; the remaining testers were upgraded the day after the release. The newest version of Chrome still uses Google's classic clean and simple interface, but it's faster than the original beta. The post-beta release also fixes bugs surrounding the audio and video playback capabilities and streamlines the bookmark manager.



m a r k e t p l a c e

Gaming Market Gains Ground

The NPD Group Video Game Industry Sales report indicates that gaming is growing. The report shows that October 2008 sales of gaming hardware and software grew 18% compared with October 2007 to \$1.31 billion. The only sales loss was in the accessories category, which dropped 8% to \$120.19 million. Nintendo came out on top of the console pack, with the Wii selling 803,000 units in October and the DS selling 491,000 units. On the software side, Fable II for the Xbox 360 was the top seller at 790,000 units sold.



U.S. Video Games Industry Sales

Product Category	October 2008 Dollar Sales	Percent Change From October 2007
Video Games	\$1.31 billion	18%
Video Game Hardware	\$494.74 million	5%
Video Game Software	\$696.79 million	35%
Video Game Accessories	\$120.19 million	-8%

Mini-Notes Pack Mighty Punch

They may be small, but mini-notebook PCs (also called mini-notes or netbooks) proved the most successful in the PC industry in the third quarter of 2008. According to DisplaySearch's Quarterly Notebook PC Shipment and Forecast Report, the category grew more than 160% quarter over quarter in Q3 2008. The small and light mini-notes offer an inexpensive (typically starting around \$300) way for users to accomplish most computing tasks on the go. Every top 10 PC brand except Apple has entered the mini-note arena, which seems poised for even larger growth in the future.



Q3 2008 Mini-Note PC Volume & Market Share By Brand

Mini-Note PC Brand	Volume (In Millions)	Market Share
Acer	2.15	38.3%
Asus	1.70	30.3%
HP	0.33	5.8%
MSI	0.32	5.7%
Dell	0.16	2.8%

tidbits

More than 50% of all American Internet users are members of a social networking site.



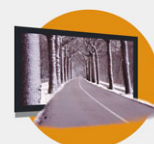
Source: IDC



20% of consumers in a recent survey have made CE purchases based solely on user opinions or reviews.

Source: CEA (Consumer Electronics Association)

A survey of HDTV owners by Quixel Research reveals that 75% of respondents have had a 3D viewing experience and would recommend it to family or friends.



Source: Quixel Research



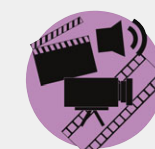
Consumers spent \$846 million online on Cyber Monday, posting the second highest online spending numbers on record.

Source: comScore

In 2008, 20% of survey respondents who work full- or part-time and listen to the radio at work reported listening online, as opposed to 12% in 2007.



Source: Arbitron/Edison Media Research



By 2013, 25% of the content people view at work will be predominately pictures, video, or audio.

Source: Gartner

Mitsubishi LT-52149
1080p LCD HDTV
\$2,999
www.mitsubishi-tv.com

Mitsubishi LT-52149 1080p LCD HDTV

Escape With Ease

Now that the holiday season is finally behind us and your house guests have returned home, you can sit back and relax to the sights and sounds of the 2009 PGA TOUR or move to the edge of your seat for the thrilling Daytona 500 or escape with your favorite movies in all their HD glory. Now's a great time to buy an HDTV, and with Mitsubishi's 52-inch LT-52149 1080p LCD HDTV (\$2,999; www.mitsubishi-tv.com), the grass has never been greener, the checkered flag has never been sharper, and movies have never been so enthralling. Your home-theater experience has never been this good.

Immerse Yourself

Everyone knows that a multichannel sound system is a must-have for movie lovers, but fiddling with multiple speakers, a bulky subwoofer, stands, wall brackets, wires, and the necessary audio tuning can overwhelm any cinema buff. These complicated audio setups, if configured improperly, can also underwhelm the audience once

the lights go down. The LT-52149 cuts out all that work without sacrificing audio performance, thanks to the iSP (Integrated Sound Projector), a discrete 16-speaker array at the bottom of the TV that delivers 5.1 surround sound by bouncing sound off your home theater's walls and other surfaces. To keep things simple, iSP employs an easy-to-use graphical user interface that lets you input your room dimensions and listener positions to produce the best soundscape possible.

On the video side of the LT-52149's coin, this HDTV features Smooth 120Hz Film Motion, which softens the panning scenes of film-to-video content, which can be prone to video artifacts, or visible distortion. The LT-52149 also features a 10-bit LCD panel and 6-Color Processor, as well as Deep Color, x.v.Color, and Tru1080p processing technologies that ensure you see the most true-to-life colors.

Compatibility & Connectivity

Mitsubishi knows you have other audio/video equipment you plan to

use with your new TV, so the company has equipped the LT-52149 with loads of inputs and outputs that make connecting a new Blu-ray Disc player and your existing equipment simple. On the back and side panels, you'll find four HDMI inputs, an S-Video input, three Component inputs, three Composite video inputs, a USB photo input, stereo audio output, coaxial digital audio output, variable subwoofer output, and more. Digital cable subscribers needn't fuss with a cable box, either; the LT-52149 features a digital CableCARD slot and programming data courtesy of TV Guide Daily.

Attractive Profile

The low profile of Mitsubishi's LT-52149, at just 4.8 inches deep, and the Ultra-Thin Frame, which pushes the LCD screen to the edges of the HDTV set, make this unit perfect for wall mounting, which will ensure your home theater keeps a neat, uncluttered appearance. The integrated speakers and CableCARD features also let you lose yourself in a theater-quality experience in any room. **FC**

The Magic Box

Understanding DACs (Digital-To-Analog Converters)



Imagine if the government passed a new law mandating that as of Feb. 17, all U.S. citizens must abandon English as their official language and instead speak, write, and read Mandarin Chinese. That, in a nutshell, is the situation that older televisions across the country face. As of that date, television stations must abandon broadcasting analog signals that older televisions natively handle and exclusively use digital signals that make as much sense to older televisions as Mandarin Chinese does to most Americans.

In order for older analog televisions to make sense of the new digital signals, they

need hardware called a DAC (digital-to-analog converter) to translate. Converter boxes with DACs equipped receive incoming digital signals, which contain data consisting entirely of ones and zeros. The DAC itself is a special chip within the converter box that uses a processor coupled with an internal program to translate all of those ones and zeros into analog video and audio waves. The resulting analog signal is then passed out of the converter box to a connected television, which has no idea the analog data it is now receiving was once stored in digital format.

Converter boxes with DACs are nice for those with older TVs (see sidebar), but don't use them with all-digital televisions, or you will reduce the sound and picture

quality of incoming broadcast signals. In this setup, the television must use an internal ADC (analog-to-digital converter) to translate the analog signal back into a digital format, so the converter box introduces an unnecessary step that inevitably degrades the original signal.

The good news is that if you need a DAC, the government has you covered—at least up to \$40. Every household in America is eligible for two free coupons worth up to \$40 each off the price of converter boxes, meaning your out-of-pocket cost is minimal (and possibly nothing, depending on what box you purchase). You can learn more and sign up for your coupon at the DTV 2009 Web site located at www.dtv2009.gov. **EG**

BY TRACY BAKER

Do You Need A DAC?

If you've purchased a television—HD or otherwise—in the past two years, there's little chance you need a converter box with a DAC. Check the documentation that came with your television to determine what type of tuner it has (digital or analog). If it has a digital tuner, you don't need a converter box with a DAC. If it has an analog tuner, you need a converter box with a DAC to receive over-the-air signals from local broadcasters. If you get TV service through a cable or satellite television operator, contact the provider to see if you need any special equipment to still receive service after the transition. ●

Going Digital

How Will The Upcoming TV Conversion Affect You?



ital TV) signals.

n Feb. 17, television broadcasters across the United States will begin sending out their programming via DTV (digital TV) signals.

Why Digital?

Analog broadcasts have worked well for a long time, so many wonder why we have to make the switch at all, let alone next year. There are a variety of reasons to go digital, but the primary one is to conserve what has quickly become one of our most precious natural resources: radio spectrum. There's a fixed amount of spectrum, meaning there are only so many frequencies available to handle television, radio, cell phone, networking, emergency, and other wireless traffic.

Analog and digital transmissions eat up the same amount of bandwidth, but there's a big difference between the two technologies. Digital transmissions can have compression and other techniques applied that are off-limits to analog transmissions. These tricks let broadcasters

squeeze several digital channels into the same amount of bandwidth that one analog channel requires. This is important where HDTV broadcasts are concerned because HDTV transmissions require more bandwidth than standard-definition channels. We have no way to increase available radio spectrum, so we must decrease the amount of spectrum each channel requires. Digital is vital today, where hundreds of channels must coexist.

What About Analog?

An analog TV can't use a digital signal. A DAC (digital-to-analog converter) must receive the incoming digital signal, convert it to analog, and output the signal to your TV. (For more information on DACs, see page 9.) If you have an analog TV and subscribe to cable or satellite, you already have the hardware that incorporates a DAC—so few of us will notice the difference once the content switches.

If you're using an antenna to pull in free OTA (over-the-air) broadcasts, you may have a problem. Right now, broadcasters transmit digital and analog OTA signals simultaneously, but on Feb. 17, the

analog transmissions will stop. If your TV has an analog tuner, you'll need a DAC box to convert the digital signal. If your TV has a digital tuner, however, you'll be able to enjoy OTA broadcasts. Check out the "Are You Ready For DTV?" sidebar for a convenient breakdown.

If your TV was manufactured after March 1, 2007, it has to have a digital tuner. Otherwise, check the manual or call the manufacturer to see what type of tuner is installed. Keep in mind that even if you have a digital HDTV, it may still have an analog tuner, as crazy as that sounds.

DACs are available in preparation for the switch, but they're not free; the NTIA (National Telecommunications & Information Administration) is subsidizing the cost. The most important thing to keep in mind before the transition is that there's no need to panic. Your old TVs won't become worthless, and new TVs will be ready to go once the digital switch is thrown, without you needing to buy any additional hardware, cables, or other accessories. **FG**

BY TRACY BAKER

Are You Ready For DTV?

Most of us are already prepared to usher in the age of all-digital television, but refer to this chart for each television you have in the house to see what type of hardware you need come Feb. 17.

What Tuner Type Does Your TV Have?	How Do You Receive Your TV Signal?	What You Need For The DTV Transition:
An analog tuner	Over-the-air	A DAC (digital-to-analog converter) box
An analog tuner	Via cable or satellite service	Your existing cable or satellite equipment
A digital tuner	Over-the-air, cable, or satellite service	Nothing extra at all

Pump Up The Volume

A Wireless Music System Sets Your Songs Free



What You'll Need

We've mentioned that you'll need to supply a few items, such as a computer with music files on it, a stereo or set of powered speakers, and a network router with support for 802.11g and perhaps other popular wireless protocols, such as 802.11n. (Wireless support is optional for some network music systems.)

Typically, a wireless music system has three or four components. A **remote** with a screen lets you choose the songs, playlist, or station you want to hear. One or more **receivers** connect to your stereo(s) with audio cables and to your router or a **transmitter** wirelessly (or with an Ethernet cable, although this precludes the "wireless" part of "wireless music system"). Finally, some included **player software** runs on your computer and gives the music system access to your music.

You're not limited to your own tunes, of course. Most wireless music systems also can access online radio stations and certain music streaming services, such as Pandora (www.pandora.com) and Rhapsody (www.rhapsody.com). Still others can access your personal online music collection stored on a service such as MP3Tunes.com. In fact, some systems let you listen to music on the Internet without even turning on your computer.

After some setup to get your wireless music system working with your network, you'll be able to enjoy all of your music anywhere in the house. Doesn't that sound nice? **FG**

BY MARTY SEMS

You no longer bother with CDs anymore.

Instead, you simply pick up a remote, dial up a genre of songs, such as jazz, and kick back on the couch. If you would rather hear music by a particular artist or group, such as Meiko, it's no problem. And if you don't really care what you listen to at the moment, start a random playback of all the tunes you own.

A wireless music system lets you bridge the gap between the tunes on your PC and your home stereo or surround-sound system.

The success of the iPod has made it common practice for more and more of us to "rip" music from our CDs, or

convert it to song files on our computers' hard drives, before we sync it with our MP3 players. Of course, that means that our laptops and desktops may accumulate thousands of songs over time. (It also means that you can box up your expensive CDs and store them in the closet, where they'll never get scratched.)

With a wireless music system, you can turn your PC or Mac into a remote-controlled jukebox with its speakers in an entirely different part (or parts) of the house. You can set it up in the backyard with kids' music on a boom box for a child's birthday party or play some big band tunes as a backdrop for Grandma and Grandpa's anniversary dinner. The remote can even take a late-evening house party up a notch, as guests can take turns adding songs to the playlist.

Essential THINGS TO KNOW

Home-Theater Components

HD DVRs

Q Why would I need an HD DVR?

A Although you can connect a standard-definition DVR to an HDTV, recordings will only display in standard definition. Conversely, an HD DVR records programming in high definition for HD playback on an HDTV.

Q Are HD DVRs more expensive than standard DVRs?

A Yes. Primarily because recording the increased details and resolution of HD video requires far more storage than standard DVRs. High-end HD DVRs can approach \$600. HD DVRs, however, do typically offer more functionality than standard DVRs.

Q What can I do with an HD DVR besides record programs?

A Many HD DVRs include USB 2.0, FireWire, and Ethernet outputs for such abilities as connecting to the Internet, home networks, and storage expanders to buy on-demand movies, stream audio and video, and offload programs to external storage.

Speakers

Q What are satellite speakers?

A Satellites are the small speakers you place to the left, right, and rear. Satellites handle high and midrange frequencies, such as breaking glass and background music.

Q What is a subwoofer?

A This large speaker produces deep bass, such as the rumble of explosions. These frequencies are nondirectional, so you can place a subwoofer anywhere in the room.

Q What is the speaker in the front and center for?

A The center channel, which may be bigger than the satellites, is optimized to make dialogue clearer.

Q How do I connect bare speaker cables to my receiver?

A Secure the bare cable tips in the receiver's spring clips or binding posts—positive and negative should match up.



Receivers

Q What is a receiver?

A This audio component decodes and amplifies sound from your BD (Blu-ray Disc)/DVD player or other audio/video source. Next, it sends the audio to stereo or surround-sound speakers and a subwoofer.

Q What are my options for buying a receiver?

A You can buy a receiver by itself or in an HTB (home theater in a box), which is a kit that will include speakers, cables, and often a DVD player for convenience and possibly overall cost savings.

Q Do I need an upconverting receiver?

A If neither your DVD player with HDMI nor your HDTV upscales movies to look good on-screen, you can route both video and audio through an HDMI-compatible upconverting receiver.

Q Do I need a receiver that can decode lots of audio formats?

A If your BD/DVD player doesn't satisfactorily decode certain formats you want to hear, such as Dolby TrueHD, there are receivers you can buy that can.

Q How do I get my receiver to decode audio instead of my BD/DVD player?

A Set your BD/DVD player's audio settings to "raw" or "bitstream" mode. For the best sound, use an HDMI cable.

Furniture

Q Can I keep my home-theater component cables out of sight if I use a TV stand?

A Yes. Purchasing a flat-panel stand with a wire management system will help you organize your cables behind your entertainment components.

Q What's the best way to display audio components in an open room?

A Try a durable audio stand, such as metal-framed towers and hardwood stands with sturdy shelving. There are a variety of options that will likely match your entertainment room: metal, glass, and wood.

Q Can I customize home-theater seating?

A Yes. You can mix and match home-theater recliners by creating a configuration including left-arm, right-arm, and armless seating. Some models come with built-in cup holders, so you can imitate the cinema experience.

Q Are there chairs designed specifically for gaming?

A Yes. You can find both wired and wireless models for comfort during extended gaming sessions. Many wired chairs are compatible with audio and video jacks. Other models may include built-in speakers.

Q If I want to hide my speakers in my home-theater room, what types of options are available?

A You'll be able to use a fashionable cover, such as faux books or an open-bottom clock to conceal various speakers. Many covers feature mesh grills to preserve sound.



HDTVs

The Goods On LCDs, Plasmas & RPTVs

LCD

Pros

- The thin profiles and light weight of these televisions make them easy to mount on a wall.
- Power demands are a bit lower than comparably sized plasma displays and considerably lower than CRT televisions.
- Many LCD TVs have a VGA input, so you can hook up your computer and view content on a big, bright screen.
- Altitude and air pressure have no effect on LCD TVs, so performance doesn't suffer in the mountains.
- Image burn-in is unlikely.

Cons

- Fast-moving images may suffer from a slight trailer-effect, but as LCD technology has improved, the effect has become barely perceptible.
- When pixels stick on or off, they show up as either a pinpoint of bright light or black and can be distracting on-screen.

Best For

- Bright, sunny kitchens
- Small rooms

Plasma

Pros

- Plasma TVs light phosphors evenly across the screen to create images, and the images are consistently bright and clear with vibrant colors.
- The contrast ratio is high (30,000:1), so you'll see deep, dark blacks and bright, crisp whites.
- The design and technology of plasma TVs lend themselves to large screen sizes—typically 50 inches or greater.
- Rapid pixel response means no blurry motion.
- Wide viewing angles give you the same high-quality images on-screen no matter where in the room you happen to be sitting.

Cons

- Although the risk has been greatly reduced through advances in flat-screen technology, some plasma TVs are still susceptible to image burn-in if not cared for properly.
- A combination of low air pressure and high altitudes (6,500 feet and higher) may cause plasma TVs to buzz.

Best For

- Movies with nonstop action
- Sporting events

RPTV

Pros

- RPTVs (rear-projection TVs) are surprisingly lightweight for their sizes.
- You'll find exceptional picture quality on very big screens (65 inches and larger).
- As screens get bigger, RPTVs tend to be more cost-effective than LCD or plasma TVs.

Cons

- With depths of 16 to 24 inches, these TVs are far too big and bulky to mount on a wall.
- RPTVs still require that lamps, which may cost a few hundred dollars, be replaced every few years.

Best For

- Big, roomy home theaters
- Movies and games



Yes, You Need To Calibrate

Give Your HDTV A Makeover

It's probably for the best that we consumers don't have access to the settings that will make our HDTVs look their best. Sure, you can use a calibration disc, but chances are good that the TV's menu controls won't let you do everything those discs suggest you do. The advanced stuff requires a trip to the HDTV's service menu, which is accessed by punching a secret code into your remote control. We don't advise that you do so, however, because you can ruin your TV.

The HDTV manufacturers keep the code a secret for a reason: Poking around in the wrong places can have devastating consequences. "Consumers should never go into the service menu," says Ira George, an ISF-certified Elite Services Specialist for Geek Squad (www.geeksquad.com) in Omaha, Neb. "If they don't know what they're doing, they will render the TV useless."

Indeed, one ISF-certified calibrator we spoke with years ago during a calibration session told us the sad tale of a customer who entered the service menu

and accidentally turned off the electron guns used to display an image on the screen. He couldn't see anything—including the service menu—and his television was essentially broken until the ISF calibrator arrived to save the day.

As if going into the service menu isn't perilous enough, there's not much the average consumer can do once they get there. You need pricey equipment to adjust the settings found there—exactly the kind of equipment ISF-certified calibrators have. "We use calibration equipment provided by Sencore," says George. "It is a color analyzer that is used to set the white balance of the customers' displays. Without that equipment, customers cannot accurately set the colors of their televisions."

There are only a few downsides to calibration. The first is that it can't be done right out of the box. "It is recommended that the TV have at least 100 hours of use before a calibration can be performed properly," says George. There also are a few things calibration can't overcome. "Calibration cannot correct alignment issues in rear-projection TVs," George says. "Calibration also cannot correct any service issues with the TV."

Although you can expect to budget 10 to 15% of the purchase price of your TV for a professional calibration session, consider it an entertainment investment that will pay dividends for years to come. **FG**

BY TRACY BAKER

What To Expect From A Calibration

If you decide to call in Geek Squad's Home Theater Calibration team to calibrate your HDTV, you can expect the Agents to establish maximum contrast between black and white, so images

look their best and retain maximum detail. The ISF-certified Elite Service Specialist will also use color analyzer equipment to objectively tune color saturation and temperature as precisely as possible,

letting you see video exactly the same way that the person creating it did.

A calibration session includes two inputs on the set, so if you have a DVD player and cable box, for example, the HDTV's inputs will be calibrated specifically for the video output from those two devices. Calibration also adjusts the sound levels and positioning of the speakers in a surround-sound setup, so your entire home theater will look and sound as good as it can. ●





LCD TV

Immerse Yourself In Big Picture & Sound

Mitsubishi 149 Series
LCD Flat-Panel HDTVs
(LT-46149/LT-52149)MSRP: 46-inch model \$2,499
SKU: 8961368MSRP: 52-inch model \$2,999
SKU: 8961634www.mitsubishi-tv.com

Quick Overview

The Mitsubishi 149 Series flat-panel TVs with immersive sound provide a simple, space-saving solution for built-in surround sound in your home-theater setup. Without clutter, such as extra cables or speakers*, these TVs feature an UltraThin Frame™, which will give you more picture and sound without taking up precious space.

Perfect For

The 149 Series is ideal for home-theater enthusiasts with limited space who are looking for an immersive home-theater experience with a single, stylish, sophisticated unit.*

Outstanding Benefits

- **1080p LCD flat-panel display** with Tru1080p™ and Plush1080p® Processing
- **Integrated sound projector** for true-to-life 5.1 surround sound*
- **Exclusive 6-Color Processor™** produces bright colors and whiter whites
- **Smooth 120Hz™** minimizes blur
- **Deep Color and x.v.Color™** enables more color than ever before
- **Four SimplayHD-certified HDMI 1.3a inputs**
- **NetCommand®** provides a true one-remote control home-theater system
- **USB input** enables you to easily connect USB devices
- **Digital cable-ready CableCARD slot** allows quick and easy cable setup

Coolest Feature

The 16-Speaker **Integrated Sound Projector** with variable subwoofer preout gives you true-to-life 5.1 surround sound without bulky receivers or additional speakers.*

* Adding a powered subwoofer to the TV is recommended for the best sound.



LCD TV

Stylish Design, Superior Performance



LG 52-inch 1080p
120Hz Flat-Panel LCD
HDTV (52LG70)

MSRP: \$2,999

SKU: 8833747

www.LGusa.com

HOME THEATER

Quick Overview

- LG's 52LG70 LCD HDTV combines eye-catching design with enhanced features in order to deliver superior picture and audio quality. The 52LG70's elegant teardrop design is accentuated with clean lines, an invisible speaker system, and soft-touch controls to create a truly premium HDTV.
- **LG is currently offering 36-month financing on all HDTVs \$1,499 and above plus \$200 toward any Geek Squad purchase, such as installation, delivery, etc.**

Perfect For

Home-theater enthusiasts looking for premium performance and stylish design.

Outstanding Benefits

- Full HD 1080p resolution
- ISFccc Calibration ready
- TruMotion 120Hz technology
- Invisible speaker system with Clear Voice technology
- 24p Real Cinema
- 4x HDMI™ V.1.3 with Deep Color
- LG SimLink™ Connectivity
- 15,000:1 Dynamic Contrast Ratio
- USB 2.0 jack for viewing JPEG photos or listening to MP3 music files

Coolest Feature

LG's **Intelligent Sensor** automatically evaluates its surroundings and processes picture quality elements, such as brightness, contrast, color, sharpness, and white balance, for the best optimized video results.

HITACHI
 Inspire the Next

HOME THEATER

LCD TV

The Thinnest Large Screen HDTV Monitor Available



Director's Series®
 UltraThin 1.5

MSRP: \$3,199.95

SKU: 9018644

www.hitachi.us/tv

Quick Overview

The Hitachi Director's Series® UltraThin 1.5 model UT47X902 is the thinnest large-screen HDTV monitor available at a mere 1.5 inches thin. A high-precision Black Sapphire Crystal Frame surrounds the image and is beveled to present the picture like a work of art. This HDTV includes In-Plane Switching LCD technology for the widest viewing angles and color purity, as well as an industry-leading PictureMaster™ video processor for the most realistic picture possible.

Perfect For

The décor-conscious, the aficionado, the connoisseur, and the stylish.

Outstanding Benefits

- 1.5-inch Thin Crystal Frame
- Stunning 360° Design
- Full HD 1080p
- 120Hz with Motion Interpolation
- UltraWide 178° Viewing Angle
- Fanless Energy-Efficient Design

Coollest Feature

The UltraThin 1.5 UT47X902 is a mere 1.5 inches thin, the thinnest large screen HDTV available on the consumer market today. When combined with a commonly available ultra-thin wall mount of 0.4 inches, the total mounting depth of this 47-inch class (46.96 inches diagonally measured) HDTV monitor is an industry best. With a 1.9-inch total mounting depth, it is the realization of an installation inspired by style and design.

FirstGlimpse



OFFICIAL HDTV OF SUPER BOWL XLIII



Free \$200 NFLShop.com Gift Certificate With Samsung HDTV Purchase

HOME THEATER

Samsung and the NFL have teamed up to outfit you with your favorite NFL team merchandise. Simply purchase any Samsung HDTV (\$1,000 and up) between Jan. 4 and Jan. 31, 2009, and you're eligible to receive a \$200 gift certificate for NFLShop.com. Choose from hundreds of cool NFL items, including player jerseys, team gear, memorabilia, and much more!



Buy any Samsung HDTV \$1000 and up.
Get a \$200 NFLShop.com gift certificate.
Choose from hundreds of cool NFL items
including jerseys, team gear and memorabilia.

To receive your NFLShop.com gift certificate by mail:

1. Purchase any Samsung HDTV \$1000 and up from 1/4/2009 through 1/31/2009.
2. All claims must be received by 2/28/2009.
3. Enclose original UPC symbol from the eligible product.
4. Enclose the cash register receipt (photocopies accepted) with item circled.
5. Fill out name and address and mail to: Samsung NFL Shop Offer
P.O. Box 9081, Dept. 2009
Bridgeport, NJ 08014 • 1-800-635-8478



name _____

address _____

city _____

state _____

zip _____

phone _____

Enter your e-mail address to receive information from Samsung _____

☐ The \$200 NFL Shop offer greatly influenced my decision to buy this Samsung HDTV
Subject to terms and conditions on right.



Terms and Conditions: To be eligible for this offer, you must purchase a qualifying new Samsung product (or products) from a participating Samsung dealer during the promotion dates. Purchases from online auctions are not eligible. Limit one certificate per receipt, customer, person, family, household or address. This offer cannot be combined with another Samsung offer unless specifically stated in writing. To be eligible, price must be retailer listed purchase price before any sales tax or other tax is applied. This offer is not available to distributors, dealers, resellers,etailers or retailers of these products. This offer is available to all customers with mailing addresses in the US. Purchases made in other countries or for delivery to other countries are not eligible. Samsung is not responsible for lost, late, damaged, illegible, misdirected or postage-due submissions. Your rights cannot be assigned or transferred, and this offer is void where taxed, restricted or prohibited by law. Excessive submissions constitute fraud and may result in federal prosecution under the US Mail Fraud Statutes (Title 18, USC 1341 and 1342). Keep copies of all materials submitted: originals become property of Samsung and will not be returned. For those who qualify, certificates will be mailed in 8-10 weeks after submission. Check the status by visiting www.checkmyrebate.com. Failure to comply with the rules of this promotion will make your submission invalid and could delay or prevent the mailing of your certificate.

By returning this form, I acknowledge that the information I provided is accurate and subject to audit by Samsung and its partners.

FirstGlimpse

SAMSUNG

Plasma TV

Sports, Games & Movies In Full HD 1080p Resolution

HOME THEATER

Samsung Series 6
PN58A650 1080pMSRP: 50-inch model \$2,299.99
SKU: 8793914MSRP: 58-inch model \$3,799.99
SKU: 8793898www.samsung.com

Quick Overview

Samsung raises HDTV to the highest level of enjoyment with the PN58A650. Available as a 50- or 58-inch plasma screen, this HDTV offers a full HD 1080p resolution, Ultra FilterBright™ glare reduction, and an amazing 30,000:1 contrast ratio for incredibly life-like images and bold colors. As for audio, you'll enjoy SRS TruSurround XT, which will seemingly take you to the middle of the action with natural, enveloping HD sound.

Perfect For

Anyone who wants an HDTV that offers device connections for easy access to his MP3 player songs and digicam photos and updated news.

Outstanding Benefits

- Ultra FilterBright™ antglare technology with 175-degree viewing angle
- Wiselink USB 2.0 lets you hook up and look through your MP3 player or digicam to play MP3 and JPEG files through USB connection
- Infolink RSS feeds supply customizable stock, weather, and news info
- 4 HDMI ports (3 rear, 1 side); 2 A/V inputs (1 rear, 1 side), and 2 Component video inputs
- Touch of Color design accent color surrounds the HDTV's screen and complements any decor
- Direct down-firing speakers with SRS TruSurround XT and 10-watt per channel built-in audio amplifier
- 34.1x55.8x4 inches (HxWxD) with stand

Coolest Feature

Select **Sports, Game, and Movie viewing modes** with the single touch of a hot key button.

FirstGlimpse

DENON

Audio/Video Receiver

Eliminate Irritating Volume Swings

Denon AVR-1909
7.1 Channel
Audio/Video Receiver

MSRP: \$649

SKU: 8853895

www.usa.denon.com



Quick Overview

Denon's AVR-1909 is one of the first audio/video receivers to offer Audyssey Dynamic Volume, an automatic volume-leveling system, as well as Audyssey Dynamic EQ, which ensures rich bass and smooth tonal balance, even at low volume levels. Setup is a snap thanks to the icon-based on-screen display, and the Audyssey MultEQ acoustic correction and optimization system custom-tailors the sound for optimum tonal balance throughout the listening space.

Perfect For

Anyone who wants the latest in a high-resolution system with the most user-based features.

Outstanding Benefits

- 90 watts per channel x 7 channels, Dolby TrueHD, Dolby Digital Plus, Dolby Digital Surround EX, Dolby Pro Logic IIx decoding
- DTS-HD Master Audio, DTS ES 6.1 Discrete, DTS ES 6.1 Matrix, DTS Neo:6 decoding, HDMI v1.3a processing and switching (3 inputs, 1 output), supports 1080p, Deep Color, xv Color, CEC functions
- Faroudja DCDi video processing and upconversion up to 1080p
- Audyssey MultEQ Room Acoustic Correction System
- Audyssey Dynamic Volume automatic volume control system
- Audyssey Dynamic EQ automatic tonal balance adjustment system
- Enhanced On-Screen Display with icon-menu system and screen saver

Coollest Feature

The AVR-1909 will let you sit back and relax, watching TV and movies, without having to adjust the volume to compensate for sound spikes.

HDTVs

5 Must-Have Accessories

As you head toward the HDTV section of your local consumer-electronics store, you'll invariably pass shelves of bland-looking HDTV accessories.

Sure, these accessories have multi-channel audio, gold-plated connectors, nitrogen-injected insulation, and fully articulating mounting arms, but they can't compete visually with their big-screen flat-panel HDTV counterparts.

Despite outward appearances, however, there are a handful of accessories that are vital to getting the most from your HDTV. **FC**

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

1



Wall mounts let you display your HDTV to its greatest advantage. To help you see

your TV from the best possible viewing angle, look into a swivel mount, which lets you adjust the vertical and horizontal positions. A wall-mounted HDTV also clears a bit of floor space and keeps your living room or home theater neat and clutter-free. Before hanging the wall mount and installing the television, make sure your theater recliners and couches are positioned where you'll be happy with them for a while so you don't have to drill new holes in the walls every time you want to rearrange the furniture.

2

TV stands are a good option if you'd rather not drill holes in your family room's newly painted walls. Likewise, if your walls are made of cement or cinderblock, a stand is probably a better option than a wall mount. Today's A/V furniture manufacturers offer gorgeous showroom-style stands in a variety of materials, including warm wood (available in many stains), minimalist brushed steel, and clean-looking glass. You can get a triangular corner model, a high-backed cabinet that includes a mount for flat-panel HDTVs, or a rack with adjustable shelves to accommodate the rest of your A/V gear.



3

HDMI cables eliminate the need for multiple cables. HDMI cables are all-in-one cords that carry uncompressed digital audio/video signals to and from your HDTV and its components, eliminating the need for separate A/V cables. Well-shielded cables cost a bit extra, but they're worth it because they eliminate interference from other components. Another feature you'll appreciate on the more costly cables is the connection—because the connector is well-built, it'll fit snugly in the port, so the cable won't work itself free when pets and small children accidentally jostle the cables.



4

A surround-sound system brings the aural experience of a theater home. You've perhaps struggled to keep volume levels steady while watching TV. The intrusion of a loud

commercial in the middle of your favorite show is startling; likewise, it's jolting when a quiet part of your favorite movie is suddenly interrupted by a too-loud scene change. A good-quality surround-sound system will feature an equalizer, which will prevent volume extremes in movies and HD broadcasts that are capable of 5.1 or better surround sound.



5









A universal remote lets you control all of your A/V equipment with one device. No one—not your mom, dad, grandma, or even the kids—can figure out the remotes

when there's a different one for each component in your home-theater system. Consolidate the controls with a programmable universal remote, which lets you control everything with a single device. Many of these remotes let you control as many as 15 devices at once, and some have a color LCD with backlighting, so you can see what you're opting to control in your dimly lit home theater.



Which LCD TV Is Best For You?

So you've decided to get an LCD TV. The next step is deciding *which* LCD TV to invest in. With all the models on today's market, you want to be sure the model you select is the best for you and your family. Refer to this chart for further help when shopping.

What It Means		Size	Dimensions; Weight**	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs	Outputs	Refresh rate
		The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs	A fixed TV resolution; images are best displayed in the native resolution	The maximum angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly	Inputs let you connect your components to your TV	Outputs transfer information from your TV to peripherals, such as audio to speakers	How many still frames of video appear on-screen in one second
	LG 32LG40 MSRP: \$899.95* SKU 8878869	32 inches	21.7x31.8x 4.3 inches; 31.5 pounds	720p	178 degrees	3 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 Composite; 1 S-Video; 1 PC; 1 RF	2 audio	60Hz
	Insignia NS-LCD42HD-09 MSRP: \$949.99* SKU 8632802	42 inches	27x39.8x 4.5 inches; 40.7 pounds	1080p	N/A	3 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 S-Video; 2 Composite; 1 PC; 1 RF	2 audio	60Hz
	Toshiba REGZA 42RV535U MSRP: \$1,299.99* SKU 9034644	42 inches	25.5x39.8x 3.7 inches; 46.3 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 2 Component; 1 S-Video; 1 PC	2 audio	60Hz
	Sharp AQUOS LC-52D85U MSRP: \$2,299.99* SKU 9034243	52 inches	31.34x49.3x 3.16 inches; 52.9 pounds	1080p	176 degrees	5 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 Composite; 1 S-Video; 1 PC	N/A	120Hz
	LG 52LG70 MSRP: \$2,799.95* SKU 8833747	52 inches	33.3x50.6x 5.1 inches; 79.6 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	4 HDMI; 4 Component; 1 Composite; 1 RF; 1 PC; 1 S-Video	2 audio	120Hz
	Mitsubishi LT-52149 MSRP: \$2,999* SKU 8961634	52 inches	31.5x47.7x 4.8 inches; 83.8 pounds (with stand)	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 3 Component; 2 S-Video; 2 Composite	2 audio	120Hz
	Hitachi UT47X902 MSRP: \$3,199.95* SKU 9018644	47 inches	45.186x 31.63x1.5 inches (with stand); N/A	1080p	178 degrees	1 HDMI; 1 Composite	1 audio	120Hz
	Sony Bravia KDL-46XBR8 MSRP: \$4,699.99* SKU 8996508	46 inches	27x49.625x 5.75 inches; 71.6 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	4 HDMI; 2 Component; 3 Composite; 1 S-Video; 1 RF; 1 PC	1 audio	120Hz

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

**unless specified, this is without stand

Which Plasma TV Is Best For You?

If you're planning on buying a plasma HDTV, it might be hard to decide on one just by looking at a wall of gorgeous sets. Refer to this chart for further help when shopping.

What It Means	Size	Dimensions; Weight**	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs	Outputs	Refresh rate
	The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs	A fixed TV resolution; images are best displayed in the native resolution	The maximum angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly	Inputs let you connect your components to your TV	Outputs transfer information from your TV to peripherals, such as audio to speakers	How many still frames of video appear on-screen in one second
 Panasonic TH-42PX80U MSRP: \$1,199.95* SKU 8722448	42 inches	26.7x40.2x 3.7 inches; 56.7 pounds	720p	N/A	3 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 Composite; 2 S-Video	2 audio	480Hz
 Samsung PN42A450 MSRP: \$1,199.99* SKU 8749376	42 inches	26.3x41.5x 3.8 inches; 59.1 pounds	720p	175 degrees	3 HDMI; 2 Component; 1 PC	N/A	60Hz
 Insignia NS-PDP50 MSRP: \$1,299.99* SKU 8454996	50 inches	32x51.4x 4.2 inches; 95 pounds	720p	N/A	2 HDMI; 2 Component; 1 S-Video; 1 RF; 1 PC	1 audio	60Hz
 LG 50PG60 MSRP: \$2,499.98* SKU 8962045	50 inches	31.2x48.7x 3.1 inches; 87.5 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 2 Component; 1 S-Video; 1 RF; 1 PC	3 audio	180Hz
 Hitachi P50X902 MSRP: \$3,199* SKU 9015692	50 inches	31.9x48.9x 4.25 inches; N/A	1080p	N/A	3 HDMI; 2 Component; 1 S-Video; 1 RF	1 audio	60Hz
 Samsung PN58A650 MSRP: \$3,799.99* SKU 8793898	58 inches	34.1x55.8x 4 inches; 129.6 pounds	1080p	175 degrees	4 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 Composite; 1 S-Video; 1 PC	2 audio	60Hz
 Panasonic TH-65PZ850U MSRP: \$6,999.95* SKU 8939697	65 inches	39.1x63x4.3 inches; 160.9 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 Composite; 2 S-Video; 1 PC	2 audio	480Hz
 Pioneer PRO-141FD MSRP: \$7,000* SKU 8982979	60 inches	34.5x57.68x 2.53 inches; 110 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 1 Component; 1 Composite; 1 PC	N/A	60Hz

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

**unless specified, this is without stand

Nikon D90 D-SLR with 18-105mm
AF-S DX Nikkor lens;
www.nikonusa.com
\$1,299.95

Nikon D90 D-SLR

Unleash Your Inner Artist

DIGITAL IMAGING

If you're looking for a feature-loaded, top-of-the-line D-SLR, you can stop; the Nikon D90 D-SLR (\$1,299.99 with 18-15mm AF-S DX Nikkor lens; www.nikonusa.com) is it. With 12.3 megapixels, continuous shooting up to 4.5fps, a movie mode, a variety of shooting modes, and much more, this D-SLR will meet all your needs, whether you're a professional or amateur photographer.

And if you have an eye for movies as well as photos, you're in luck. The D90 sports a unique D-Movie Mode and records 24fps movie clips up to 720p in Motion JPEG format with sound. So if you're snapping some photos at the family reunion and Grandpa starts telling one of his famous stories, you'll be able to quickly switch the D90 to Movie Mode and capture the whole thing for posterity. Or if you're documenting a child's birthday party, you can catch a quick video of the little one blowing out her candles while everyone sings.

For the novice, the Nikon D90 is fully equipped to help you capture images in

certain situations with a number of preset shooting modes, including Portrait, Landscape, Close-up, Sports, and Night Portrait. You can also select from automatic exposure modes to aid in your quest to snap the perfect picture, and with the D90's 11-point autofocus system with Face Priority, you'll be able to focus your camera on the right subject, leaving you free to spend time framing the shot just right.

For the pros, you can just put the camera on Manual exposure mode. But it certainly helps that the Nikon D90 sports EXPEED image-processing technology, NIKKOR optics, and low-noise ISO sensitivity (from 200 to 3200), so your photos will look crisp and clear in virtually any light. And because the camera powers up quickly (in just 0.15ms), you'll be able to react and get the shot whenever the moment is right.

If you need to tweak the photos at all, the Nikon D90 features in-camera image editing with effects including Fisheye, Straighten and Distortion Control, Red-eye Reduction, Image Overlay, and more.

Regardless of your experience level, the Nikon D90 offers plenty of shooting flexibility with a built-in flash, a flash shoe that lets you attach additional external flashes, and an interchangeable lens mount so you can use a wide angle, telephoto, or other type of lens you may need. The 3-inch LCD monitor with 920,000-dot color ensures that you can view your work as soon as the shutter snaps. And with an easy-to-use one-button Live View, you have access to three different contrast detection modes, which will let you see your composition and contrast levels prior to snapping photos.

The rechargeable Li-Ion battery will give you 850 shots per charge, so even if you spend the entire weekend snapping pictures, you won't run out of juice. Your masterpieces are stored on SD or SDHC cards, and when you're ready to transfer the images or video, you can do so via USB, NTSC, or HDMI. Whether you're an artist, an amateur photographer, or a professional photographer, the Nikon D90 is a tool that will meet your needs. **EG**

Let's Improve Your Memory

Take Our Memory Card Tutorial

DIGITAL IMAGING

The memory card in your digital camera is similar to the storage in your living space—it isn't a big issue until you run out of room. But unlike the storage space in your home, you can't carefully rearrange the contents of a memory card to gain extra room. Thus, you'll want to ensure you purchase a memory card that offers you ample storage so you won't have to deal with a "memory card full" message when capturing this year's Valentine's Day photos.

Know Your Cards

Most digital cameras and camcorders only work with one type of memory card; the options include SD (Secure Digital), CF (CompactFlash), xD-Picture Card (eXtreme Digital Picture Card), and MS (Memory Stick). Additionally, there are variants, such as MS Pro Duo and MS Pro-HG Duo or SD and SDHC (SD High Capacity), for each type of memory card. It's critical that you purchase the exact type of memory card accepted by your model of camera or camcorder. Consult the users manual or visit the manufacturer's Web site to locate the exact type of memory card to purchase.

Proprietary Concerns

If you already own a few devices that use memory cards, you may want to consider purchasing a camera that uses a matching format to let you use the same card with



multiple portable devices. Electronics from Sony (developers of the MS format) and Olympus and Fujifilm (co-developers of the xD-Picture Card format) often require you to use the manufacturer's proprietary memory card format. Alternatively, other digital camera and camcorder manufacturers utilize the SD and CF formats. The SD memory format (and its microSD form factor) are also popular in media players, gaming devices, and mobile phones, among others—making the SD format ideal for those who want to use the memory card with multiple types of devices.

Watch Your Speed

If you plan to shoot rapid-fire images or capture videos, the speed of your memory card can affect the quality of the content. A memory card's ability to quickly write data—typically rated at a speed of 40X or higher—will help ensure that your images and video are free of errors. In particular, HD camcorders, which capture greater detail than SD camcorders, typically require a high-speed card. **FG**

BY NATHAN LAKE

How Much Memory Do I Need?

Our chart will give you a good idea of the amount of content you can save to a single memory card. Note that all numbers are approximate because the actual quantity will vary depending on the quality of images and video, as well as the type of compression you use.

File Type	1GB	2GB	4GB	8GB
5MP image	498	1,010	2,017	4,038
8MP image	296	600	1,198	2,398
10MP image	249	505	1,008	2,019
12MP image	206	417	833	1,668
Standard-definition video	25 minutes	50 minutes	100 minutes	200 minutes



Digital Imaging Black Tie Protection

Professional Coverage That Never Looks Shabby

DIGITAL IMAGING

Have you ever opted out of a digital imaging protection plan before, only to regret it two years down the road when the lens on your D-SLR malfunctions? The Agents at Geek Squad know what type of glitches and problems can keep you from enjoying your photographic experience—here's the best part: They can execute a plan that's exclusively designed to take care of your valued DI devices.

Suit Up

Geek Squad's Black Tie Protection for Digital Imaging is designed to cover every feature of your digital camera, digital camcorder, or photo printer.

To keep your DI equipment functioning at its peak, Geek Squad offers regular performance maintenance so you don't have to continue using a camera with worn-down components. If you need a battery repaired or replaced, leave it up to Geek Squad, who will determine its defective status and return your camera or camcorder to its original functional state.

Under Black Tie Protection, you'll be able to take advantage of 24/7 customer support. A Geek Squad Agent will even

What Does It Take To Get Protection?

Once you decide on the best camera, camcorder, or printer for your lifestyle, it's time to pick a plan and a price. Black Tie Protection pricing will vary depending on the device you've chosen, with larger ticket items typically requiring more coverage.

Check the pricing plans at your local Best Buy to determine the value of the Standard and Premium plans for your new digital imaging device. ●

schedule an in-home visit (during normal business hours) if you require hands-on assistance. This service is available for up to four years.

In terms of overall security, the Premium Plan includes up to 5GB of remote online backup via a personal account. This service will protect and store your photos, important files, and other essential documents.

Plan Ahead

Geek Squad offers two separate Digital Imaging protection plans: the Standard plan, available in Best Buy stores and online, and the Premium Plan, available in-store only. The Standard Plan covers six benefits: wear-and-tear/defective products, accidents, dead batteries, replacement parts, and equipment failure due

to power surges for customers who ultimately don't need to use their plan.

If you choose the Premium Plan, you'll receive everything that comes with the Standard Plan plus the aforementioned online data protection, four free troubleshooting phone calls each year, and a product functionality check-up, performed at any Geek Squad location.

Use Your Resources

Don't overlook the advantages of Black Tie Protection. Your digital imaging electronics represent the many treasured moments you've recorded or captured—wouldn't you want to preserve both the materials and the memories as long as possible? **FG**

BY JOANNA SAFFORD

Essential

THINGS TO KNOW

Digital Photo Frames

Bluetooth

- Q** Why would I use Bluetooth technology with a digital photo frame?
- A** Bluetooth technology allows you to display your digital photos with added convenience. You won't need to fuss with connecting your frame to other devices using cables.
- Q** What types of devices are compatible with a digital photo frame that has Bluetooth?
- A** Bluetooth technology can be incorporated into mobile phones, printers, laptops, and other devices.
- Q** Can I send photos directly from my phone, camera, or PC to a digital picture frame using Bluetooth?
- A** Bluetooth-enabled frames can receive photos from any of these devices, depending on the distance between the digital photo frame and the device sending the photo.
- Q** Do all my photos have to be loaded onto my computer before I use a Bluetooth connection?
- A** Not necessarily. You can prepare your photos for a slideshow on your computer, but with a Bluetooth-enabled camera or phone, you'll be able to load photos you've stored on these devices.

File Compatibility

- Q** How do I know which photo formats a digital frame will support?
- A** Check the box or the users manual. Most digital photo frames support JPEG, which is one of the most commonly used file formats for digital photos. Some frames support other formats, such as BMP or RAW, as well.
- Q** What are some of the common audio file formats used with digital frames?
- A** Digital photo frames that have built-in speakers and can play music commonly support MP3 audio files.
- Q** What are the different ways in which you can load data, such as photos, songs, and videos?
- A** To load media onto your frame, use a media card or connect the frame directly to your computer.
- Q** What format of digital video should I use with my frame?
- A** Check your users manual, as each digital frame will vary with regard to supported file formats. Some of the most commonly used video file formats are MPEG-1, MPEG-4, AVI, and MOV.



Memory Storage

Q What are the different types of memory cards available for digital photo frames?

A Compatible memory cards include SD (Secure Digital), SDHC (SD High Capacity), CF (CompactFlash), xD-Picture Card (eXtreme Digital), MS (Memory Stick), and MS Duo.

Q Are all photo frames compatible with the available memory card types?

A Many photo frames will support multiple types of memory cards, but not every photo frame will be compatible with all memory card types.

Q What type of memory card should I buy?

A If you plan to use your memory card in your digital photo frame after you take pictures with your digital camera, purchase a memory card that is compatible with both devices.

Q What size of memory card should I buy?

A Any size will do, but in order to load up your digital photo frame with plenty of pictures, you may want a larger capacity card. Generally, a 2GB card is sufficient.

Q How many photos can a 2GB card hold?

A How many photos a card will hold depends on how many megapixels each picture is. On average, a 2GB memory card can hold more than 1,000 5MP pictures.

Accessories

Q How do I keep my digital photo frame clean?

A You can purchase cleaning solutions that come with cloths made just for digital photo frames so you won't have to worry about damaging the surfaces.

Q Will my digital photo frame come with a remote control?

A Many digital photo frames (but not all) will include a remote control so you can do things such as adjust which images or videos the photo frame displays.

Q Can I use a rechargeable battery in my digital photo frame?

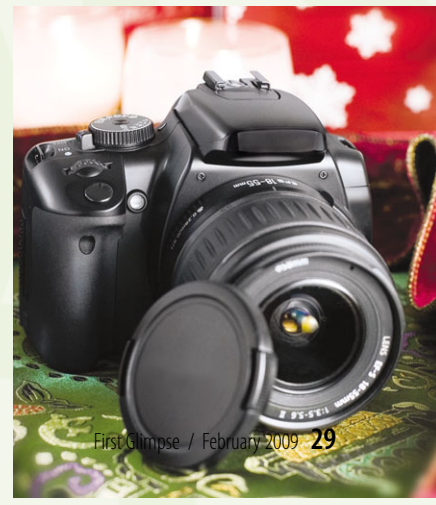
A Yes. Most 9V and 12V digital photo frames are compatible with rechargeable battery packs made specifically for digital photo frames.

Q Do I need to purchase a wireless adapter in order to have wireless capabilities?

A You will need to check the specifications of the frame. Many come with built-in Bluetooth, but there are models that are not Bluetooth-enabled but instead support adapters that can be purchased separately.

Q Do all digital photo frames support multiple faceplates?

A No. If you want to be able to swap faceplates, check the compatibility of both your digital photo frame and the faceplate before you make a purchase.



Spanning The Spectrum

Focal Lengths Explained

If you've shopped for a D-SLR camera, you've probably noticed that many are available in a kit that includes a camera body and lens. Kit lenses typically have a focal length range of 18 to 55mm. Focal length describes a lens' zoom capabilities. There are many other lenses available, each of which has a different purpose. For example, telephoto lenses let you zoom in to get a closer look, whereas wide-angle lenses let you see more of your surroundings. By understanding the difference in focal lengths among lenses, you'll have a better knowledge of which type of lens best suits your needs. If you're in the market for your first D-SLR, you may find that using a lens other than the kit lens will best suit your needs. As a result, you may decide to forgo the kit lens and save money by buying just the camera body and then put the money you saved toward a specialized lens.

Basic Lens Types

Typically, lenses are grouped into categories based on their focal length. A

wide-angle lens gives you a broad field of view. Wide-angle lenses usually have a focal length of 30mm or less. Standard lenses have focal lengths ranging from about 30 to 50mm. This type of lens most closely matches the perspective of the human eye. Telephoto lenses magnify objects and typically have focal lengths more than 50mm. Lenses with a focal length greater than 200mm are called super-telephotos. Close-up or macro lenses let you focus on something that is a short distance from the camera. Macro lenses can range in focal length.

Choose Your Zoom

In general, the kit lens that accompanies a D-SLR is a good starter lens. As your photographic needs grow, it's worth considering specialized lenses. Because focal length determines your range of view, it will play a big part in helping you decide which type of lens will best suit your photographic needs. **FG**

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

Shooting Range

A standard lens is perfect if you want a range of wide-angle to slightly telephoto views.

With a macro lens, you can take close-up

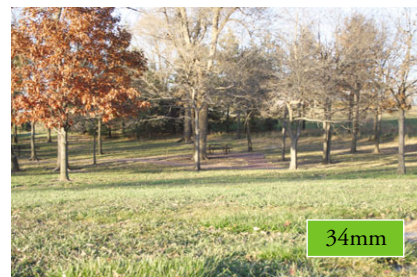
shots of small objects, such as flower petals.

If you're into nature photography, you may want a telephoto zoom lens. With

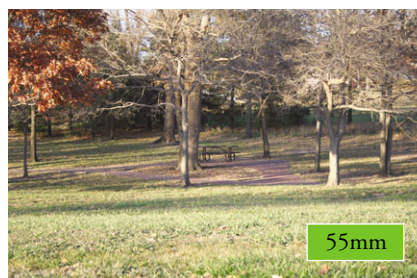
this lens, you'll be able to capture your son's facial expression as he shoots a goal, even if you're on the other end of the soccer field. ●



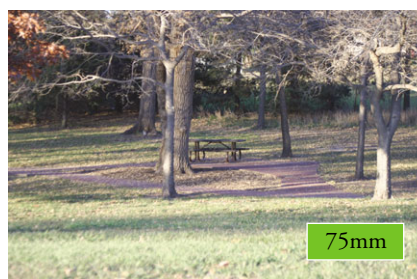
18mm



34mm



55mm



75mm



135mm



300mm

Here's a look at the same picture, using different focal lengths. Notice how the picnic table is hardly noticeable in the first shot but becomes very obvious when you zoom in.

Digital Camera

Get Up Close & Personal With 5x Optical Zoom



Olympus FE-370

MSRP: \$199.99

SKU: 8959978 (silver)

8959941 (pink)

www.olympusamerica.com

DIGITAL IMAGING

Quick Overview

The FE-370 from Olympus packs amazing photo technology and a 5x optical zoom into a slim, all-metal body, bringing you hassle-free performance and sharp image quality at a great price. This 8MP compact camera's 2.7-inch high-resolution LCD provides an extra-large view, enabling you to compose shots with ease. With Dual Image Stabilization, Face Detection, Intelligent Auto, and 20 easy-to-use Shooting Modes, you will capture the perfect picture in any situation.

Perfect For

With its sleek, metal design and portable size, the FE-370 is perfect for users on the go.

Outstanding Benefits

- Olympus' ultra-compact, precision-crafted **5x optical zoom lens** gets you 60% closer to the action than a 3x zoom
- **Dual Image Stabilization**, the 2-in-1 anti-blur solution, keeps your shot steady by compensating for camera shake and freezes the action with high ISO and fast shutter speeds for crisp, clear images in any situation
- **Face Detection** tracks up to 16 faces and automatically focuses and optimizes exposure for sharp, brilliant portrait pictures
- **Smile Shot** detects a smile on your subject's face and automatically fires off three consecutive shots, so you never miss a perfect smile

Coollest Feature

Intelligent Auto automatically identifies the scene you're shooting—portrait, landscape, night portrait, macro, or sports—and adjusts the settings for ideal results.

FUJIFILM

Digital Camera Fashion Meets Technology!

DIGITAL IMAGING



Fujifilm FinePix Z20fd

MSRP: \$149.99

SKU: 8960314 (Polka Dot) Best Buy Exclusive Design

www.BestBuy.com/fujipolkadot

Quick Overview

Best Buy Exclusive Design! Ultra-compact and ultra-stylish, the FinePix Z20fd digital camera fits into your digital lifestyle. With features such as 10-megapixel power, face detection with auto red-eye removal, one-touch MPEG-4 Movie Recording, and Dual Blog Mode, the Z20fd fits into your world to capture all the action.

Perfect For

The Z20fd is perfect for when you want to look great and capture great pictures. It lets you capture all the action under any condition and easily share it with your friends.

Outstanding Benefits

- 10-Megapixel power for sharp and clear images
- Fujinon 3X Optical Zoom and 5.7X Digital Zoom
- 2.5-inch LCD makes it easy to frame and share your images
- Face Detection with automatic red-eye removal finds up to 10 faces
- Picture Stabilization helps eliminate blurry pictures
- In playback mode, run slideshows, zoom in, and create portraits of detected faces in the picture
- One Touch Movie button records MPEG-4 clips at 30fps

Coollest Feature

Polka Dots are cool, but the coolest feature is the **One-Touch Movie Button** that makes movies easy to shoot. Use the simple built-in edit functions to put the finishing touches on a high-quality movie with audio in the popular MPEG-4 format.

SONY

Camcorder Big Performance In A Compact Package



Sony
HDR-CX12

MSRP: \$899.99

SKU: 8894388

www.sony.com

DIGITAL IMAGING

Quick Overview

The ultra-sleek, palm-sized HDR-CX12 Handy-cam® camcorder is the world's first camcorder with Face Detection and Smile Shutter™ technology. Face Detection automatically adjusts focus, exposure, and color for the most natural results. With Smile Shutter, the HDR-CX12 can detect smiles and automatically capture still images, even while recording 1920 x 1080 Full HD video.

Perfect For

The person looking for a lightweight, compact, high-definition camcorder that is perfect for recording that special moment, wherever you are.

Outstanding Benefits

- 2.7-inch touch-panel color LCD
- 12X optical/150X digital zoom
- 10.2-megapixel still images
- Memory Stick PRO Duo™ media
- Picture Motion Browser v3.0 software—easily find, transfer, archive, and share your photos and videos
- Super SteadyShot picture stabilization
- ClearVid™ CMOS sensor—provides Full HD 1920 x 1080 video recording
- Dolby Digital 5.1 Surround with built-in zoom microphone
- USB 2.0 interface

Coollest Feature

Video and still images are stored directly to Memory Stick PRO Duo™ media (4GB supplied) for easy transfer to your computer or other compatible devices.



High-Definition Camcorder Powerful, Yet Affordable HD

DIGITAL IMAGING



A-HD+1080P High Definition Camcorder

MSRP: \$199.99

SKU: 8775943

www.aiptek.com

Quick Overview

Aiptek's 1080P High Definition Digital Camcorder will allow you to capture stunning HD 1080P (1,440 x 1,080 with 16:9 aspect ratio) video at 30 frames per second with advanced H.264 high-end compression technology. Enjoy video playback on your high-def or standard-def TV and your PC or Mac! With five scene modes and night recording technology, this HD digital camcorder makes it easy to capture digital photos and video in a variety of light and scene conditions.

Perfect For

This camcorder is perfect for anyone who records fast-action sporting events.

Outstanding Benefits

- **4X digital zoom.** Lets you zoom in on your desired subject with stunning clarity.
- **2.4-inch color LCD monitor with color viewfinder.**
- **5-megapixel CMOS sensor.**
- **Night recording capability.** Great for low-light situations.
- **Includes five scene modes**—Auto, Sunny, Cloudy, Tungsten, and Fluorescent to achieve natural tones in a variety of scene conditions.
- **Records high-definition video.**
- **Saves video in MOV format.**
- **Records in both** standard 4:3 and widescreen 16:9 aspect ratios.

Coollest Feature

Connect the camera to your TV/VCR/DVD player to record your favorite movies, TV shows, and other programs.



Camera Bag

Comfortable, Durable & Stylish Camera Protection



Lowepro SlingShot

MSRP: 100 AW \$83.99

SKU: 8003402

MSRP: 200 AW \$104.99

SKU: 8054776

www.lowepro.com

DIGITAL IMAGING

Quick Overview

The SlingShot 100 AW and 200 AW use a unique design to go from “carry mode” to “ready mode” in only seconds. Carried comfortably on your back, these smart bags easily rotate to your front to allow quick access to camera gear so you won’t miss perfect shots. This feature-rich camera bag also includes a built-in memory card pouch, micro fiber LCD cloth, and two organizer pockets. The SlingShot 100 AW and 200AW will surprise even the most demanding photographers.

Perfect For

On-the-go photographers who need their camera equipment protected and quickly accessible.

Outstanding Benefits

- Ergonomic sling strap evenly distributes your bag content’s weight
- Full-access lid allows fast and easy equipment loading and unloading
- Two pocket organizers and built-in memory card pouch
- Built-in microfiber cloth helps protect your camera’s LCD from nicks and scratches
- All Weather Cover™ protects against elements such as rain, dust, and sand
- Mesh-covered back pad and sling strap provide breathable comfort
- Exterior material: water-resistant microfiber, ripstop nylon, and 600D TXP
- 100 AW interior dimensions are 9.8x7.5x5.1 inches (HxWxD); 200 AW interior dimensions are 11.8x8.7x 5.9 inches (HxWxD)

Coollest Feature

The innovative **sling strap design** allows you to easily swing the bag from your back to your front for quick and easy access to your photography equipment.

Digital Camcorders

5 Must-Have Accessories

Prices for digital camcorders continue to fall as picture quality increases, which is especially good news for first-time camcorder buyers. As a first-time buyer, you may not have a good idea of what else to include in your camcorder budget. Here are a few accessories we consider must-haves. **FG**

BY THEANO NIKITAS

1

A bag protects your camcorder from potential hard knocks. Whether you have tons of DV gear or only the minimum, a camera bag or case is probably one of the most important investments you'll make.

Obviously, a well-padded bag (or a hard case if you need to check your equipment when flying, for example) will protect your camera from knocks and short drops. At the same time, a camera bag can serve as a home for your DV gear; stow all your equipment and accessories in the bag, and you won't have to turn the house upside down to find that cable or extra DV tape.



2

UV filters are an inexpensive way to keep your lens scratch-free. If your camcorder has a threaded lens, you might want to invest in a UV (ultraviolet) filter. Some people use a UV filter to protect the lens from scratches, as well as dirt, sand, and other outdoor photo hazards, because it's much less expensive to replace a filter than a lens or camera. And, because the filter cuts down on UV light, you'll get clearer and more-detailed footage when you're shooting in high-UV conditions, such as in the mountains, so those great landscape shots will look even more impressive.



3

A tripod holds your camcorder steady, so guests don't get sick when they watch your vacation video. You may have smooth moves on the dance floor, but can any of us really say that we can hold a camcorder as steadily as we'd like to? Probably not. That's where a tripod comes in. A tripod that's sturdy

enough to hold the weight of the camcorder (check the specs) and equipped with a three-way pan/tilt head (the head is the part the camera is attached to) will allow you to smoothly pan the action as your daughter runs down the basketball court to score her winning shot or to follow the path of a bird from the tree up to the sky as it disappears from view. And, if you want a static, steady shot, just put the camera on the tripod, press record, and let it run—just make sure to place the camera and tripod out of harm's way, especially at parties and group events.



4

Experiment with different lens adapters, such as wide-angle or telephoto. Digital camcorders usually have a much broader zoom range than digital still cameras, but if the zoom range isn't broad enough and your camcorder accepts accessory lenses, pick up a wide-angle or telephoto adapter lens. A wide-angle lens is great for tight spots, especially when you're indoors at a party where you may be too close to your subjects to get the full view you'd like. A telephoto lens, of course, allows you to get closer to subjects that are far away, such as performers in a ring at the circus or in rugged terrain when you're searching out wildlife.



5









Spare batteries ensure that you'll be able to continue shooting your son's basketball game, even when it goes into overtime. There are times when you'll want to shoot video in the best quality for a fairly continuous amount



of time, which can drain the battery. Recharging the battery takes time that you may not have. It's a good idea to have a fully charged backup battery in your case so you don't miss any of the action—whether it's the grand finale of your daughter's first piano recital; the final, heart-stopping minutes of your son's hockey game; or the entirety of your kids' class play.

Which Point-&-Shoot Camera Is Best For You?

If you're a little confused about the most important features in a digital camera, you're not alone. In this chart, we compare features from select digital cameras, and we also explain what these features mean.

		Resolution; Optical zoom	Shutter speed	Memory card	LCD size	Battery life	ISO	Movie mode
	What It Means	More pixels mean bigger and clearer prints; Moves the lens closer to your subject	A faster shutter speed will let you snap action photos without blur	Removable card that stores your photos in your camera	The LCD is the display on the back of the camera	Based on how many shots you can take on a single charge	A higher ISO lets you take better photos in low-light settings	Lets you record short video clips on your digital camera
	Kodak EasyShare M893 IS MSRP: \$149.95* SKU 9076938	8.1MP; 3X	4 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC	2.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 90, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Fujifilm FinePix Z20fd MSRP: \$159.95* SKU 8960314	10MP; 3X	3 to 1/1,000 second	xD-Picture Card/SD/SDHC	2.5 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Olympus FE-370 MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 8960074	8MP; 5X	1/2 to 1/2,000 second	xD-Picture Card	2.7 inches	180 shots	Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Yes
	Pentax Optio S12 MSRP: \$229.95* SKU 9140128	12MP; 3X	1/2 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC	2.5 inches	270 shots	Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Yes
	Casio Exilim EX-Z250SR MSRP: \$249.99* SKU 9107487	9.1MP; 4X	15 to 1/1,600 second	SD/SDHC/MMC/MMC plus	3 inches	322 shots	Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Canon SD880 IS MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 8968325	10MP; 4X	1/2 to 1/1,000 second	SD/SDHC/MMC/MMC Plus/HC MMC Plus	3 inches	310 shots	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Olympus Stylus 850 SW MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 8696128	8MP; 3X	8 to 1/2,000 second	xD-Picture Card/microSD	2.5 inches	190 shots	Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	Sony Cyber-shot DSC-T300 MSRP: \$399* SKU 8696182	10.1MP; 5X	1/4 to 1/1,000 second	Memory Stick Duo/Memory Stick PRO Duo	3.5 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Yes

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which D-SLR Is Best For You?

As D-SLR prices keep coming down, more photographers are turning to them, both as a first camera and as a trade-up to something better. In this chart, we'll help you sort through some of the features and performance specs from select D-SLR cameras.

		Resolution	LCD size	ISO range	Kit lens	Burst speed	Shutter speed
What It Means		Image sensor in megapixels; more means a bigger image	Diagonal measure of display on back of camera	A higher ISO range will let you take better photos in low-light situations	Standard lens bundled with the camera body	Frames per second (fps) you can shoot while in burst mode	The wider the range, the greater the gamut of long exposures to frozen action
	Casio Exilim EX-FH20 MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 9051063	9.1MP	3 inches	100 to 1600	N/A (fixed lens equivalent to 26-520mm f/2.8-4.5)	40fps	1 to 1/2,000 second
	Sony Alpha DSLR-A300K MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 8942512	10.2MP	2.7 inches	100 to 3200	DT 18-70mm f/3.5-5.6	3fps	30 to 1/4,000 second
	Olympus Evolt E-520 MSRP: \$699.99* SKU 8928958	10MP	2.7 inches	100 to 1600	14-42mm f/3.5-5.6 Zuiko lens	2.5fps to card capacity	60 to 1/4,000 second
	Canon EOS Rebel XSi MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 8794691	12.2MP	3 inches	100 to 1600	EF-S 18-55mm f/3.6-5.6 IS	3.5fps up to 53 shots	30 to 1/4,000 second
	Nikon D90 MSRP: \$1,299.95* SKU 8975184	12.3MP	3 inches	200 to 3200	AF-S DX Nikkor 18-105mm f/3.5-5.6G ED VR	4.5fps	30 to 1/4,000 second
	Panasonic Lumix DMC-L10K MSRP: \$1,299.99* SKU 8815464	10.1MP	2.5 inches	100 to 1600	LEICA D VARIO-ELMAR 14-50mm f/3.8-5.6	3fps to card capacity	60 to 1/4,000 second
	Olympus E-3 MSRP: \$1,699* SKU 8682776	10.1MP	2.5 inches	100 to 3200	N/A (body only)	5fps to card capacity	60 to 1/8,000 second
	Canon EOS 5D MSRP: \$2,699.99* SKU 9004427	15.1MP	3 inches	100 to 6400	N/A (body only)	3.9fps up to 78 images	30 to 1/8,000 second

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which Digital Camcorder Is Best For You?

Digital camcorders come in a number of formats: DVD, hard drive, flash drive, MiniDV, and high definition are the most common. By comparing the following digital camcorders, you can determine which recording format and product best fit your style.

		LCD size	Optical zoom; Digital zoom	Recording speeds	Memory card	Digital still resolution	Lines of resolution	
What It Means		Diagonal length of viewing screen	Two methods for magnifying depth of field; optical zoom is better	The speeds a particular cam- corder can uti- lize during recording	Compatible flash card types (cards not in- cluded unless noted)	The number of megapixels the camcorder can capture in still images	Number of lines of horizontal reso- lution; the higher the number, the greater the detail	
MiniDV		Panasonic PV-GS90 MSRP: \$279.95* SKU 8671528	2.7 inches	42X; 2,000X	SP/LP	N/A	N/A	
		Panasonic VDR-D50 MSRP: \$349.95* SKU 8673269	2.7 inches	42X; 2,000X	XP/SP/LP	SD/SDHC	0.3MP	500
DVD		Samsung SC-MX20 MSRP: \$299* SKU 8907365	2.7 inches	34X; 1,200X	N/A	SD/SDHC	N/A	N/A
		Canon FS100 MSRP: \$399* SKU 8732598	2.7 inches	37X; 2,000X	XP/SP/LP	SD/SDHC	0.8MP	N/A
Flash Drive		Canon VIXIA HG20 MSRP: \$949* SKU 8916925	2.7 inches	12X; 200X	LP/SP/XP+/ FXP/MXP	SD/SDHC	2.76MP	N/A
		JVC GZ-HD30US MSRP: \$999.99* SKU 8894333	2.8 inches	10X; 200X	MPEG-2: FHD/1440CB R; AVCHD: XP/SP/EP	microSD/ microSDHC	3.3MP	1,080
Hard Drive		Sony HDR-CX12 MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 8894388	2.7 inches	12X; 150X	FH/HQ/SP/ LP	Memory Stick PRO Duo	10.2MP	1,080
		Canon VIXIA HF11 MSRP: \$1,199* SKU 8917069	2.7 inches	12X; 200X	LP/SP/XP+/ FXP/MXP	SD/SDHC	2.76MP	N/A
Flash Drive	See p. 33							

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Everything HD

The Migration To HD Is In Full Swing



In The Living Room

Outside of HDTVs, BD (Blu-ray Disc) players and BD movies are the HD components buyers are arguably most familiar with. Considering America's love affair with Hollywood and the HD DVD format's demise, it's not surprising more BD players and movies are infiltrating home-theater setups and libraries. Beyond producing superior audio and video quality, BD players can also upconvert SD (standard-definition) DVDs to HD quality when connected to an HDTV, while support for such features as BD Live further expand the entertainment experience via Internet-based extras. Gaming consoles with Blu-ray capabilities and HD DVRs that can record SD and HD TV and support streaming media from a PC, on-demand movie purchases, and offloading recordings to external devices are other examples of HD's increasing presence in the home.

At The Computer

Recording HD and watching, burning, and editing BD-based content are all possible on a PC equipped with a Blu-ray optical drive, high-end graphics abilities and HD tuner, Windows Vista, and a connection to an HDTV or HD-capable monitor (preferably one with a 1,920 x 1,200 widescreen resolution). Notebook owners, meanwhile, can view HD programs using a USB-based HD tuner that acquires free, over-the-air HD signals. Additionally, streaming HD media stored on a PC that's connected directly or wirelessly to an HDTV or home-theater system is also possible, although this can require a home

network, high-speed Internet connection, Windows Media Center OS, and media extender, depending on the method used.

On The Go

In or away from home, HD camcorders and HD radios offer a tremendous upside in terms of convenience and quality. Even some inexpensive, pocket-sized camcorders now support HD resolutions for exceptional detail. Further, USB and HDMI outputs allow for direct connections to HDTVs, computers, and home-theater systems in order to view HD footage and perform other functions. And while HD radios don't technically offer HD quality (the "HD" represents a brand name), they do output digital radio broadcasts with CD-like quality. They also support more musical choices; AM broadcasts in FM quality; and displaying artist, song, weather, and other information—all at no cost beyond the initial purchase of an HD radio.

Make The Connection

Engaging in HD glory does mean connecting components with cables that support HD data transfers, with HDMI cables currently offering the highest quality. Viewing HD programs, meanwhile, will mean paying a cable or satellite provider more for the luxury. Still, once you witness the HD difference, there's a good chance you'll find the extra expense worth it. **FG**

BY BLAINE FLAMIG

FEATURE

If you haven't started re-decorating your life in modern shades of HD, you will. Just as we've all moved aspects of our lives from analog- to digital-based data and components—film to digital photos, vinyl albums to MP3 downloads, etc.—a similar migration from standard-definition to high-definition components has begun. You've likely already witnessed the benefits of HD in televisions, but other devices also deliver HD goodness, including some you may not know about. The articles in this section detail some examples.

Blu-ray Discs

The Spoils Go To The Victor



Remember about a year ago when there was a big format war between HD DVDs and BDs (Blu-ray Discs) over who would be the sole heir to the HD throne? Well, Blu-ray won.

It's like when the VHS format beat out Betamax years ago; once VHS won, Betamax players and cassettes went the way of the buffalo. Now it's time to make room on the shelf with that HD DVD player and invest in a Blu-ray player.

What Is Blu-ray?

Blu-ray is now the *de facto* HD format, ostensibly supplanting DVDs as the digital viewing medium of choice. If you want to watch movies in true 1080p HD, Blu-ray is the way to do it. BDs can pack in up to 8.5 hours (or 50GB of data) on a single dual-layer disc. Because of their immense storage capacity, the audio is uncompressed, meaning it's a higher quality than audio on DVDs. Also, DVD players generally lack the HDMI and DVI cable outputs that BD players have.

A Bit Of History

Blu-ray, a collaboration between Sony and Philips, hit the market in 2006. The big release was preceded by Toshiba's HD DVD format by a few months. Both formats looked promising, with support from device manufacturers as well as promises from movie studios to release their titles on one or the other format (or both), although Blu-ray was a bit slower to be embraced.



Blu-ray got a boost when Sony released its PlayStation 3 game console with a Blu-ray drive and gradually gained ground on HD DVD. In early 2008, Warner Brothers announced that it—and, by proxy, every company in the Warner Brothers family—would no longer release titles on HD DVD, throwing its weight fully behind Blu-ray.

Other movie studios followed suit, as did Netflix, Blockbuster, and several major big-box stores, and by February 2008, Toshiba waved the white flag and officially gave up on HD DVD.

Better Than DVDs

While the HD-DVD vs. Blu-ray battle was being waged, consumers had to gamble and choose which of the two technologies to invest in. Though it wasn't much of a risk to get one or the other type of player, most people prudently waited to start a movie collection

with either of the new formats. Now you can confidently create a movie library with your favorite titles on BD.

Don't pitch those DVDs, though—most Blu-ray players will still play DVDs. They'll still look as good as they ever did because BD players can upscale the image to fit an HDTV.

However, if you want the best possible movie viewing experience, upgrade to Blu-ray as much as possible because Blu-ray is the only way to see movies in HD. Your favorite Will Smith action movie on Blu-ray will look immensely better on your new HDTV.

You can still get gorgeous HD on an HD-DVD player, but Blu-ray is the present and future. Either way, once you go HD, you never go back. **FG**

BY SETH COLANER

Make The High-Def Connection

A Guide To Cables & Service

FEATURE

There's more than one way to connect a high-definition component to your home-theater system. Depending on the unit's age, it might furnish jacks for a digital connection—HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) or DVI (Digital Visual Interface)—as well as Component video. Let's take a look at each.

HDMI. Whenever you have the choice, this is the way to go. HDMI cables keep the full path of audio and video signals digital—everything from standard-definition TV to 1080p high-definition. This way, the signal remains as pristine at the end of its path as it is at the source. HDMI can also carry up to eight channels of audio along the same cable, so it will streamline your connections.

DVI. This is HDMI's video-only predecessor. DVI doesn't carry audio, so you'll need to run a separate digital cable for sound, either coaxial or fiber optic. You can connect a DVI-enabled unit to an HDMI port using an adapter or a hybrid cable with a DVI plug at one end and an HDMI plug at the other.

Component video. Although it's analog, you can get an excellent picture with Component video. Still, given HDMI's strengths, this is the lesser option.

Whichever cables you need, ignore the cheapest options and look for better-made alternatives. They'll be pricier, but it's an investment in performance. They're

more likely to have superior construction and shielding that will block electromagnetic and other interference from degrading picture quality.

The Right Programming

Now ... where can you get high-def programming for your HDTV or HD-capable computer? Your options are increasing all the time.

If you're a cable or satellite subscriber, your provider should have one or more HD packages available. There's also over-the-air reception; with an antenna, you can pull in your local stations' HD broadcasts for free.

To watch movies on disc, you can always add a Blu-ray Disc player to your system.



Finally, downloadable and streaming HD video is proliferating online and should have a bright future over the Internet.

However you get it, HD is a treat for the eyes. Be sure your cables do it justice. **FC**

BY BRIAN HODGE

One-Touch Convenience With CEC

One of HDMI's lesser-known features is Consumer Electronics Control. When connected devices are CEC-enabled, they communicate intelligently to finish what you've started.

For instance, powering up your Blu-ray Disc player will also turn on your HDTV and surround-sound receiver and then set the correct HDMI port and audio/video modes. You may never again have to click through another on-screen menu for the right setting.

The catch? Every manufacturer has its proprietary version of CEC—Sony calls it Bravia Theatre Sync, Samsung calls it Anynet, etc.—so in order to work, all the devices must come from the same maker.

However, HDMI's founding developers recently announced plans to agree upon a unified CEC standard, which they expect to take shape this year. ●

Rev Up Your PC With HD

How To Get There From Here



of playing HD content, but the easiest PCs to connect to a home-theater system have at least one HDMI port, which supports HD audio and video signals. If the PC doesn't support HDMI, a DVI (Digital Visual Interface; a PC video standard)-to-HDMI adapter might work, but be aware that the adapters don't adhere to the full HDMI spec, sometimes resulting in stereo sound or video-only passing over the HDMI cable. Recording HD content consumes tons of hard drive space, so get a PC with at least 300 to 500GB. To record and play free OTA (over-the-air) HD content, make sure the PC's HDTV tuner supports it. OTA HD channel reception varies by location, but you can purchase an antenna to improve your PC's HD reception.

digital content protection) technology. As a result, every component that handles the content must support HDCP, including the BD player, operating system, graphics card, cable, and display. As yet, current HD-formatted media will play as expected even if one or more component in the chain doesn't support HDCP, but future HD content may come with content protection enabled, resulting in degraded resolution or a playback failure if any non-HDCP-compliant hardware is detected. For many, this means you will need a new display. Luckily, current displays and TVs for sale are fully HDCP-compliant.

Easy As HD

While it's more involved than aiming a comfy recliner at your PC, you'll love having an HD-capable computer to watch and record HDTV and even act as a PVR (personal video recorder) for your home-theater system. **EG**

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

Thinking of going HD with your PC? If built and configured correctly, an HD PC lets you watch and record HD content on both the PC monitor and your HDTV. Read on to make it happen.

HD From The Get Go

Buying a PC that is designed to play Blu-ray content out of the box is the easiest way to go. As we went to press, Macs didn't feature BD drives, but many Vista PCs did. If you don't care for BD playback but still want to play HD content, look for a PC that features a dual-core CPU, 2GB or more of memory, and an HDTV tuner. Most current systems for sale are capable

Upgrade Your PC To HD

To get your current PC HD-ready, make sure it conforms roughly to the specs above. An internal or external HDTV tuner will suffice. If your graphics card supports Avivo HD (AMD/ATI) or PureVideo HD (Nvidia), your system will be able to decode HD content without bogging down the CPU. Most current and future HD media providers have thrown their support behind HDCP (high-bandwidth

HD Hard Drive Requirements

HD content can quickly gobble hard drive space. Consult the chart below to determine how much HD content you can store on a 100GB hard drive.

Quality	Megabits Per Second	Video Per 100GB
Low	5Mbps	43 hours, 20 minutes
Medium	9Mbps	25 hours
High	15Mbps	13 hours, 20 minutes

Upgrade To A New View

The Benefits Of HD Camcorders

FEATURE

If you've tried watching home videos recorded on an old SD (standard-definition) camcorder on an HDTV, you know that there's a big video quality difference between your home videos and the high-definition content you regularly see. In this article, we'll explain the benefits of HD camcorder video quality and advantages of using an HD camcorder with your home theater or PC.

Crystal Clear Video

HD camcorders provide a substantial improvement in video quality because the high-resolution format records greater detail, broader color depth, and sharper



video images than SD. It's also worthwhile to note that HD camcorders capture video in the widescreen format, also known as 16:9, so you won't see the black bars that appear when you play back video in the 4:3 format on an HDTV.

HD camcorders may capture video at 720p, 1080i, or 1080p, and models that record in 1080p are often listed as Full HD or True HD because 1080p provides higher resolution than 720p and better image quality than 1080i resolutions.

HD Camcorders & HDTVs

Typically, HD camcorders include the cables you'll need to connect the camcorder to your HDTV, and many offer an HDMI output, so you can play back your HD content over the highest-quality (uncompressed digital video and audio) connection. Additionally, most provide an integrated microphone or external

microphone port that can capture a multichannel digital audio recording format, such as Dolby Digital 5.1 surround sound. If your home theater has a surround-sound audio setup, you can experience the spatial sound effects and distinct voice separation of multichannel audio.

HD Home Videos & PCs

For those who prefer to edit their videos to add special effects and polish footage, HD camcorders allow you to transfer video in near-HD quality to your PC. An important item to note when editing—you'll need software that is compatible with your HD camcorder's video recording format. (See the "For The Record" sidebar.) Once you've edited your high-quality footage, if your PC features a BD (Blu-ray Disc) burner, you can burn your video creation to share with friends. **FG**

For The Record

There are two common HD video recording formats, AVCHD (Advanced Video Codec High Definition) and HDV (high-definition video). The AVCHD format requires more storage space per minute than HDV, so your camcorder's storage media will fill up faster. AVCHD lets you record to DVDs, hard drive, or flash memory, while the HDV format can be recorded to DVC and MiniDV cassette tapes. To edit these video formats, AVCHD video can be dragged and dropped to your hard drive using special software (it may still need to be converted), while HDV requires you to play back the video by connecting the HD camcorder to your PC. ●

BY NATHAN LAKE

Revive Your Radio's Sound

What You Need To Know About HD Radio



Whether you need some musical motivation to get the house clean or an interesting discussion for the drive

to work, there are many times when you want to tune in to your favorite radio station. But how many times has a song cut out during the guitar solo or that engaging AM talk show been overridden with static? An HD radio can enhance your listening experience by eliminating many of these problems.

What Is HD Radio?

You might think that because the HD in HDTV stands for high definition it's the same for HD radio. But more accurately, HD radio is the brand of a technology that allows radio stations to simultaneously broadcast both digital and analog signals to offer CD-quality audio and textual information to the listener.

Traditionally, radio stations broadcast in analog. HD radio, however, combines analog and digital signals to bring you better sound quality. But why does adding a digital signal create better sound quality? Analog signals are susceptible to interference and deterioration as they encounter obstacles such as buildings. The digital signal, however, can pass through those obstacles and bring you clear, CD-quality audio. Because HD radio has both analog and digital signals, your old radio can still receive the analog broadcast, but if you have an HD radio, you can take advantage of superior audio



quality, listen to digital stations that are only picked up by HD radio units, and view added textual information that is broadcast with every radio program, including song titles and artists, sports, weather, and news.


The Benefits

With HD radio, FM and AM stations will have improved sound, creating a more enjoyable listening experience while you're in your car running errands or working around the house.

HD radio also features multicasts. With multicasting, radio stations can broadcast multiple programs simultaneously, offering them the freedom to cater to more specific audiences and giving you more listening choices. For example, a radio station may divide the digital portion of its signal to simultaneously play music and cover a sports event.

An important item to note is that many radio stations are already broadcasting HD signals in addition to their traditional analog signals, but not every station offers HD. To find out if stations broadcast HD in your area, you can visit www.hdradio.com and click the Station Guide link at the top of the page.

Getting HD Radio

In order to receive a digital radio signal, you only need to buy a tabletop or in-dash car HD radio unit. Unlike satellite radio, HD radio doesn't require a monthly subscription fee. Basic tabletop HD radios can range anywhere from \$75 to \$300, whereas in-dash car units will cost \$100 to \$300. Another option for your car is an HD radio tuner that connects to your existing car stereo, enabling it to pick up HD radio stations. 

BY KRIS GLASER

FreeAgent Go 320GB
External USB Drive
\$129.99
www.seagate.com

FreeAgent Go 320GB External Hard Drive

A Media Library In Your Pocket

COMPUTERS

In the past, people filled a room's worth of shelves with their music and video collections, kept a closet full of shoeboxes with stored photos, and loaded filing cabinets with all their papers. Today we can keep all of those things in one place: a hard drive. And with easily transportable devices such as the Seagate FreeAgent Go 320GB external hard drive (\$129.99; www.seagate.com), we can now take our documents and media libraries with us everywhere we go.

The FreeAgent Go is portable and ready to go. Its sleek, slim profile and compact size (0.49 x 3.15 x 5.12 inches [HxWxD]) make the FreeAgent Go a cinch to keep in a purse, coat pocket, or laptop bag. Plus, it's a featherweight at only 5.64 ounces, so you'll barely notice it when you're headed to a friend's house to share photos.

When you get to where you're going, all you have to do is connect the

FreeAgent Go's USB to a Windows computer's USB port and it will run—there's no software to install. And when you get home and want to access your files, you don't even need to connect it to your computer's USB port—just drop the hard drive in the FreeAgent Go Dock (\$29.99) and start using it.

At 5,400rpm with a data transfer rate of 480kbps, the FreeAgent Go's fast performance will impress you. The external hard drive comes loaded with backup software, file synchronization capabilities, and encryption to protect your files from prying eyes. So not only will it automatically back up your data, but if the device is stolen or misplaced, your files will be safe. The FreeAgent Go can also sync with multiple computers, so your saved files on every machine will all be the most up-to-date versions, perfect for anyone who uses both a desktop and a notebook computer.

Ideal for anyone on the go, the FreeAgent Go is a powerful tool for keeping a large volume of data with you at all times; 320GB is nearly 10 times the size of a typical notebook's hard drive just a few years ago. When you travel, you can take a collection of home movies with you to show family and friends. Just plug it into a PC and play that long clip of the kids' first karate tournament with a montage of your recent vacation ready to follow. Or if you want to have your music library handy while at work, just bring this little device with you to ensure you can create your own day-long playlist.

For the green-minded among us, the device consumes low power—less than a nightlight—and is packaged in 100% recyclable materials. Available in an attractive array of colors from black to champagne gold to solar orange, the FreeAgent Go is a handy, attractive way to store the files you care about. **FG**



What You See On The Shelves Is Just The Tip Of The Iceberg

Best Buy carries so many products that business owners can find a lot of the hardware and software they need just by walking into the store, but what about specialty needs such as multiline phones, servers, and robust printers that serve as the lifeblood of today's businesses? For that you need Best Buy For Business, or BBFB, which offers hundreds of thousands of products and services that the retail stores simply don't have room to carry, all aimed at small and medium-sized businesses, as well as government agencies and educational institutions.

You can browse most of these products at www.bestbuyforbusiness.com, but the solutions don't stop there. "Because of our strong relationships with our vendors, we can get almost anything that a business customer might need whether it's on the Web site or not," says In-Store BBFB Liaison Bianca Roland. For example, if you need an LCD for signage at your business, you can walk into the store and buy a consumer model that will likely break because of the demands put on it, or you can go through BBFB and get a



model designed specifically for that task, which may even come with an extended onsite warranty that you'd never see on a consumer display.

If you have a Best Buy Reward Zone card, all purchases made through BBFB qualify for points and toward eligibility for Premier Silver membership status when you spend \$2,500 in a single year. This can add up to big savings via rebate coupons

that accumulate as you bring your business up-to-speed. The service also supports business-friendly credit terms. "One of the major benefits of BBFB," says Roland, "is that we can process purchase orders and Net 30 transactions, which are not available in-store."

BBFB also offers extensive support options. In-store support is available for most products and services, and many products are eligible for installation or extended warranty coverage provided by Geek Squad. "It is suggested that when a customer finds the need for service that he call 888-BEST-BUY, and the service support team there will help to find the best channel for service for their particular product," says Roland. **FB**

Need POS?

YOU KNOW YOUR BUSINESS IS GROWING when you need a POS (point-of-sale) system, and Best Buy For Business has you covered. Whether you need software or hardware, Best Buy For Business can answer all your questions and supply everything you need to get started. Once you've selected a POS system, you can have Geek Squad install part of it or the entire system, depending on your needs. ●

BY TRACY BAKER

Essential THINGS TO KNOW

Computer Upgrades

TV Tuners

Q What does a TV tuner let me do?

A A TV tuner lets you watch, pause, rewind, and record live TV from your PC or from a TV connected to your PC.

Q How do I install a TV tuner?

A External tuners plug into your PC's USB port. Internal tuners must be installed in a PCI (Peripheral Component Interconnect) or PCI-E (PCI Express) port.

Q Will I get HD channels with an HD-capable TV tuner?

A The availability of OTA (over-the-air) HD channels varies by geographic location. Consult with a CE retail associate to determine the channels you'll be able to receive.

Q What's the benefit of having dual tuners?

A PCs with dual TV tuners can display live TV on one channel while recording a show on a different channel.

Speakers

Q How much will a speaker system for my new computer cost?

A Depending on the quality and number of speakers, speakers run from less than \$20 to several hundred dollars. Systems that output true surround sound typically cost more because they include more speakers than a two- or 2.1-speaker system.

Q I'd like to upgrade to speakers that integrate an iPod dock. Are any available?

A Some speakers do integrate a dock for playing songs and possibly charging the player. Some systems also have an auxiliary input to connect an MP3 player, DVD player, gaming console, and other devices.

Q Can a two-speaker system output surround sound?

A Some speaker systems can simulate surround sound through two speakers using various signal-processing technologies, although such systems generally don't match the audio quality you would get with true 5.1 or 7.1 surround-sound systems.



Monitors

Q What size monitor should I get?

A If you're a gamer or watch movies on your computer, get a big monitor—19 inches or larger. Otherwise, a 17-inch monitor will be large and clear but not overpowering.

Q What does response time have to do with the monitor's quality?

A Response time is how fast a pixel on the screen can change from black to white and back to black. A response time slower than 15ms can result in blurry images and ghosting.

Q Why should I upgrade my computer monitor?

A LCDs offer better clarity and better performance for movies and gaming than CRT monitors, and they take up much less space.

Q What's the difference between a widescreen monitor and a regular monitor?

A The only difference is in the proportions of the viewing area. Full-screen monitors are 4:3 (like your older TV), while widescreen monitors are 16:9 (much wider compared to the height).

Q Is a widescreen monitor better for watching movies?

A Yes. Most movies on DVD and Blu-ray Disc are designed to be viewed in widescreen because films are shot in a 16:9 widescreen format.

Mice & Keyboards

Q Why should I upgrade my mouse or keyboard?

A Many recent mice and keyboards offer a number of features—such as an ergonomic design, programmable hot keys, and customizable buttons—for more comfortable use and quick access to common applications.

Q What are the advantages of a wireless mouse or keyboard?

A Wireless models reduce the amount of cable clutter around your PC, and you have the freedom to use the mouse or keyboard away from your desk, which can be handy when you want to control the playback of media.

Q What is an ergonomic keyboard or mouse?

A These devices are designed to minimize muscle strain and other problems such as carpal tunnel syndrome. Ergonomic keyboards and mice are ideal for those who use their computers for several hours a day.

Q Why should I upgrade to a laser mouse?

A Rather than a trackball or infrared beam, a laser mouse tracks movement with a laser beam, which provides the most accurate mouse movement.

Q What are the advantages of built-in media controls on a keyboard?

A With play, pause, fast-forward, and reverse buttons on your keyboard, you can manage playback without needing to open your computer's media player.



Processor Types

Two-Core, Four-Core & More

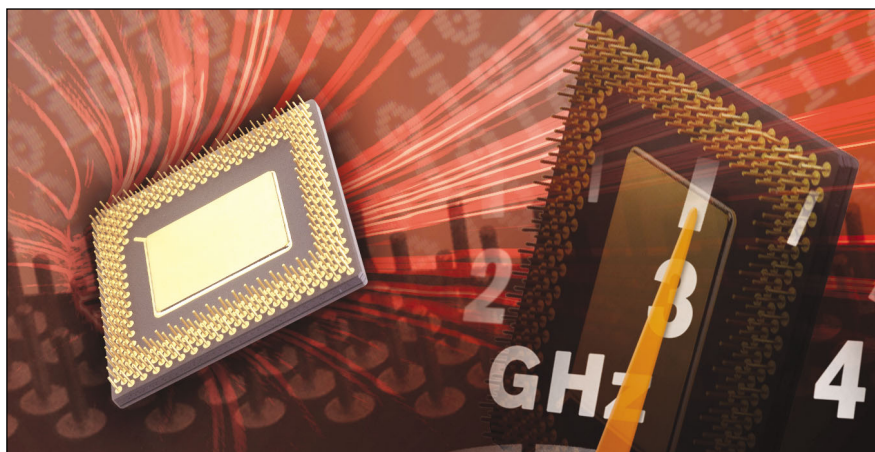
If you boil down all the technical jargon to a single concept, it is this: A processor is the chip that makes things happen.

From the desktop or laptop computer in your home to the smartphone in your pocket, each has a processor responsible for everything the device does. A processor may be just a piece of silicon with billions of tiny solid-state switches in it, but it can turn the ones and zeroes of digital data into high-definition video, Web pages, and office applications.

The Pace Race

For decades, Intel, AMD, and other manufacturers have labored to make their chips faster. Some consumers want cutting-edge CPUs so they can have the most responsive workstation or game machine around. Others simply want speedier chips so they can run the latest OSes and software without their computers feeling slow.

To increase speed, chip manufacturers have boosted the clock speeds at which their processors run, among other things. The clock speed is the number of times per second a chip can process a group of instructions, such as from a spreadsheet program, a game, or another piece of software. From 5MHz (megahertz, or millions of clock cycles per second) in 1978 to 1GHz (gigahertz; billions of cycles) in 2000 to the 3GHz and faster processors available today, Intel, AMD, and others have consistently upped the performance ante.



On the downside, manufacturers are obliged to deal with excessive heat and power consumption as they raise clock speeds. They do this with innovative materials and designs and by making the tiny features inside each chip ever smaller than the previous model.

Fork In The Road

A few years ago, Intel, AMD, and others took a new tack. They paired two **cores** (processors) together on a single chip, practically doubling the processing power. Later, three- and four-core CPUs emerged. (Servers now have a six-core option, and eight-core products are on the horizon.) Manufacturers continue to make their chips faster and more power-efficient, but the multicore revolution has uncorked performance.

The main benefit of a multicore chip is that a computer won't bog down as easily when it's running a demanding program, such as a video encoder or Blu-ray Disc player. If one core is busy with an antivirus scan, for instance,

another core can handle your emailing or Web browsing. Also, certain software, such as some games and video encoding utilities, can take advantage of multiple cores simultaneously for an enormous speed boost.

Multiple Choice

If you're shopping for a new computer or replacement processor, consider a dual-core the bare minimum. It's the new baseline for a machine used for Internet browsing, office apps, and email. Unless you're on a severe budget, forget about single-core chips.

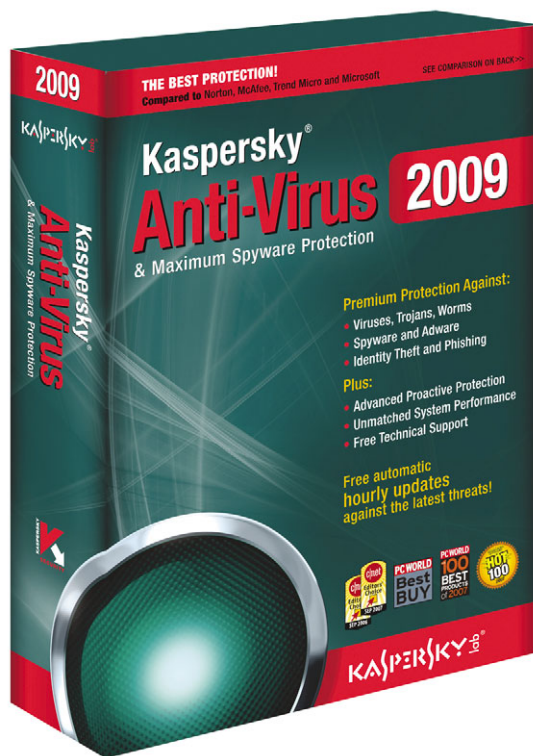
If you're into video editing, CAD (computer-assisted design), or gaming, step up to a quad-core, or perhaps a triple-core with a respectable clock speed such as 2.4GHz. In fact, the prices are so affordable on certain quad- and triple-core models that the chips even make sense for mainstream users seeking to make their computers more future-proof. **FG**

BY MARTY SEMS



Anti-Virus Software

Robust Spyware Protection



Kaspersky® Anti-Virus 2009

MSRP: \$59.95

SKU: 8940792

www.kaspersky.com

Quick Overview

Kaspersky® Anti-Virus offers the most advanced anti-virus software with maximum spyware protection. This latest version of our software represents a breakthrough in the way we protect our customers with the strongest, most efficient anti-malware technology available today.

Perfect For

Kaspersky Anti-Virus is the optimal protection for home and small office users. Browse Web pages, send and receive email, shop and bank online, and exchange instant messages.

Outstanding Benefits

- Premium protection against viruses, Trojans and worms, spyware and adware, identity theft, and phishing attacks
- Advanced proactive protection
- Unmatched system performance
- Automatic hourly updates
- Fastest response to new threats
- Free technical support

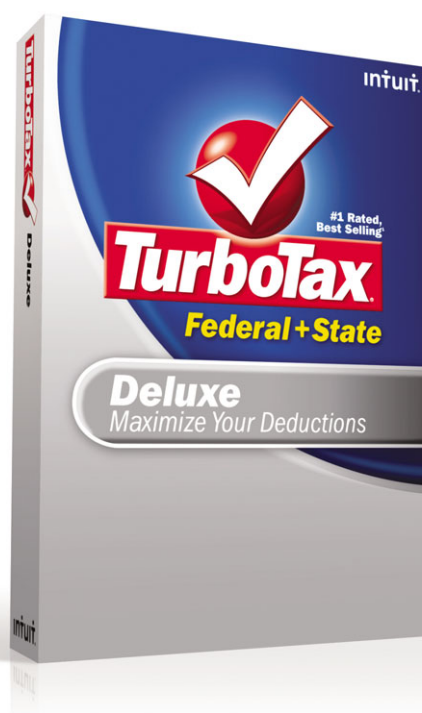
Coollest Feature

Kaspersky Anti-Virus is the new standard in Internet security! Now up to **7 times faster**, it offers premium protection that lets you make the most of your computer's performance.



Tax Preparation Software

Get Your Biggest Tax Refund



TurboTax Deluxe

MSRP: \$59.95

SKU: 9069287

www.turbotax.com

Quick Overview

TurboTax, the nation's No. 1-rated, best-selling tax preparation software, makes it easier than ever to get the biggest refund possible. The average TurboTax® customer receives a federal tax refund of more than \$2,600. That's \$200 more than taxpayers using other tax preparation methods. At a time when every dollar counts, who wouldn't want an extra \$200 in their pockets?

Perfect For

TurboTax Deluxe is great for the majority of taxpayers, whether they have simple returns or have more complex taxes; including home mortgage, charitable donations, or medical expenses.

Outstanding Benefits

- Guides taxpayers through changes in their lives such as a new job or buying or selling a home, and lets them know how those changes impact their taxes
- Get live answers instantly from TurboTax tax experts and other TurboTax users online in the TurboTax Live Community
- The Audit Risk Meter identifies common audit triggers—like a home office and rental property—and provides actionable guidance to help reduce taxpayers' audit risk before they file
- Includes ItsDeductible, which provides the fair market value of more than 1,000 commonly donated items so taxpayers can get the maximum deduction that meets IRS guidelines

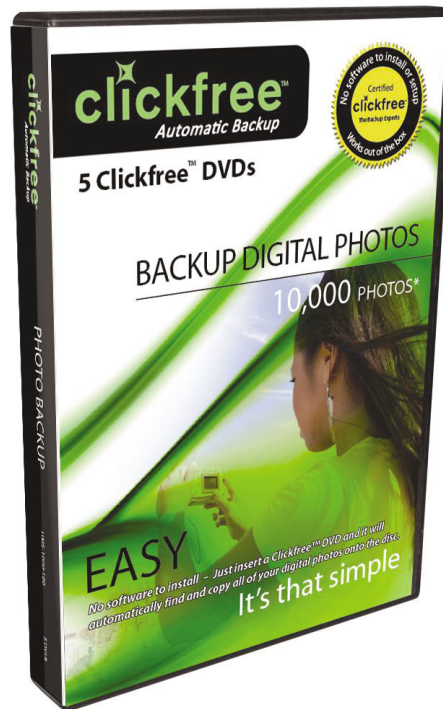
Coollest Feature

The Biggest Refund Guaranteed. Walks taxpayers over 350 deductions including mortgage interest, charitable contributions, education and medical expenses, getting them the biggest refund possible.



Photo DVD Backup

The Hassle-Free Way To Back Up Your Memories



Clickfree™ 5-Pack Photo Edition DVD+R

MSRP: \$15.99

SKU: 8817453

www.goclickfree.com

Quick Overview

Backing up, sharing, and transferring photos has never been easier. Simply insert a Clickfree™ Automatic Backup DVD into your PC's DVD writer and let Clickfree™ take care of the rest. There is no installation or setup required, which lets you make photo backups in no time.

Perfect For

Clickfree™ Automatic Backup Photo DVDs are perfect for anyone who wants a hassle-free way to protect cherished memories. They're also great for sharing and transferring photo files to a new computer.

Outstanding Benefits

- The Clickfree™ Photo DVD automatically searches for and backs up more than 100 different photo and video formats, including JPEG, RAW, and other popular photo file formats
- Can store up to 2,000 photos per disc
- Single layer DVD+R; single write only; 4.5GB disc capacity
- Clickfree™ Backup integrated photo viewer allows you to preview, select, and print or share your photos at home and online

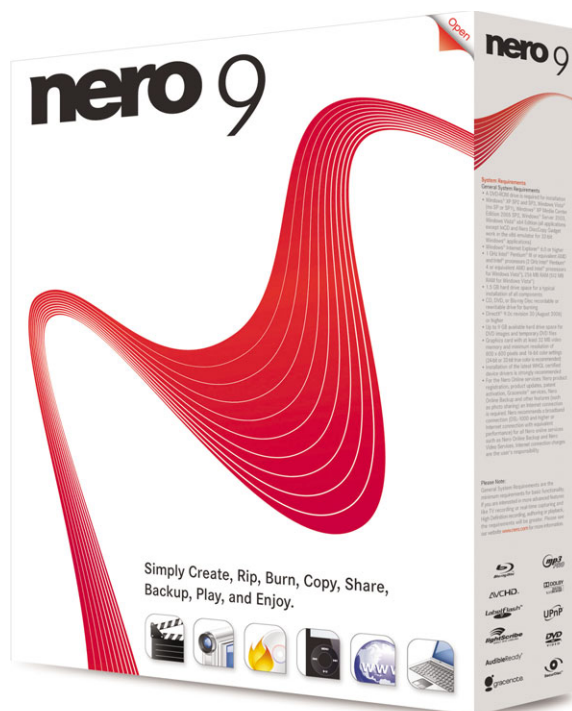
Coollest Feature

Clickfree™ Automatic Backup Photo DVDs offer a photo backup solution that is easy for anyone to use. No software installation or setup is needed. All you need to do is pop a Clickfree™ Photo DVD into your DVD drive, and the disc takes care of all the rest.

nero 9

Multimedia Software

Create, Rip, Burn, Edit, Share & Upload Online



Nero 9

MSRP: \$99.99

SKU: 8998542

www.nero.com

Quick Overview

Get the most from your digital world without the hassle and headache of complex software. Nero's easy-to-use and powerful multimedia suite—Nero 9—gives you the freedom to create, rip, burn, edit, share, and upload online. Share and enjoy music, videos, photos, and data with family and friends anytime, anywhere. Using the intuitive Nero StartSmart command center, your digital life has never been more flexible, and fun.

Perfect For

For the person looking to create and edit music, videos, and photo slideshows.

Outstanding Benefits

- Fast and easy rip, burn, auto backup, and copy functions
- Back up files to CDs, DVDs, and Blu-ray Discs
- Create professional-looking DVD movies with integrated 3D menus
- Copy, burn, share, upload, and create music mixes like a DJ
- Convert music, photos, and DVDs to play on your iPod® and other mobile devices
- Quick photo and video upload to My Nero, YouTube™, and MySpace
- Watch, record, pause, and customize your live TV experience
- Play AVCHD and other HD video formats

Coollest Feature

Convert your music, photos, and videos to CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, or your favorite portable devices and enjoy them on the go.

EPSON®

All-In-One Ink Jet 5-in-1 With Wi-Fi®: Print/Copy/Scan/Photo/Fax



Epson WorkForce™
600

MSRP: \$199.99

SKU: 8948909

www.epson.com

Quick Overview

Meet the new WorkForce™ 600 from Epson. Designed with your small business needs in mind, the WorkForce 600 is a Wi-Fi®-enabled all-in-one printer that takes your presentations, marketing materials, documents, and more to the next level. With print speeds up to 38 pages per minute and laser-quality documents about 2x faster than the competition, this ink jet is ready to help you accelerate your business. Get ready for takeoff.

Perfect For

Small business owners looking for a super-charged all-in-one printer to make their business look its best.

Outstanding Benefits

- Draft speeds up to 38 ppm (black and color)*
- Laser-quality documents about 2x faster than the competition*
- Wi-Fi® and Ethernet networking built in
- Uses up to 3x less power than a laser printer*
- Extra high-capacity black ink cartridge
- Smudge, fade, and water resistant, highlighter friendly
- Built-in memory card slots and 2.5-inch LCD
- Fax and 30-page Auto Document Feeder
- Two-year limited warranty with registration

Coollest Feature

Engineered for business, this Wi-Fi®-enabled all-in-one can send faxes in as little as 3 seconds per page and even faxes in color and legal size. Software is included to help create flyers, brochures, and other business documents.

* See Epson.com for details



Speakers

Razer & THX Redefine Desktop Sound



Razer Mako

MSRP: \$399.99

SKU: 8762957

www.razerzone.com

Quick Overview

The Razer Mako™ 2.1 bi-amplified multimedia speaker system is co-developed by the audio scientists of gaming leader Razer™ and audio industry pioneer THX Ltd. It is the first desktop speaker system to incorporate THX Ground Plane™ and THX Slot Speaker™ technologies, as well as ClassHD™ Digital Amplifier Technology, which enable rich, omnidirectional audio effects that will redefine the desktop sound experience.

Perfect For

Serious gamers, movie enthusiasts, music lovers
... who isn't it perfect for?

Outstanding Benefits

- Sleek, modern design brings style to high-performance speakers
- THX-certified quality and performance
- ClassHD digital amplifier technology with digital DSP control
- Higher efficiency curves, improved SNR and EMI, and lowered distortion levels
- Downward-firing design with optimized acoustic enclosure provides an omnidirectional listening experience
- Inputs and outputs include a 3.5mm auxiliary input minijack, 3.5mm headphone minijack, and RCA audio input
- Total system power: 300W RMS

Coollest Feature

All-in-one control pod with touch-sensitive LED dial



Tablets

Designed With Photographers & Artists In Mind



Wacom Intuos3 4x6

MSRP: \$229

SKU: 8022631

www.wacom.com

Quick Overview

The Intuos3 4x6 pen tablet allows you to professionally edit photos or create digital artwork with ease, and it comes with a full range of software applications, such as Adobe Photoshop Elements 4, Corel Painter Essentials 3, and Nik Color Efex Pro 2 IE. With its ergonomic design and strategically placed ExpressKeys and Touch Strips on the tablet, as well as a cordless pen and mouse, you can comfortably and quickly accomplish tasks.

Perfect For

The Intuos3 4x6 tablet is perfect for creators of digital content with small work spaces or those seeking a portable professional pen tablet.

Outstanding Benefits

- Easy-to-use 4x6 pen tablet is an ideal size for widescreen PCs
- Comfortable, battery-free Grip Pen with tilt sensitivity offers a natural feel, and programmable DuoSwitch delivers customized shortcuts
- Included five-button mouse is ball-free and optics-free for smooth, accurate tracking
- Control application tools with 1,024 levels of pen pressure sensitivity
- Finger-sensitive tablet Touch Strip allows for quick scrolling, zooming, and panning actions; ExpressKeys allow for programmable shortcuts
- Intuos3 driver software allows you to create universal settings for your pen and tablet, allowing for maximum productivity

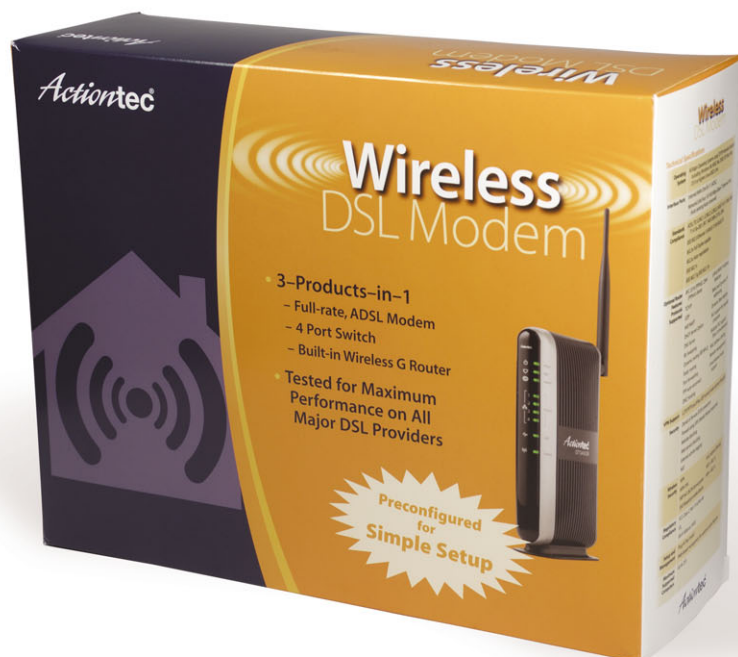
Cooler Feature

The Intuos3's **plug-and-play** USB connection allows for easy tablet connectivity and setup with either a Mac or PC.



Wireless DSL Modem

Eliminate Complex Multi-Device Installations



Actiontec GT724WGR
All-in-one DSL
Networking Solution

MSRP: \$89.99

SKU: 8661655

www.actiontec.com

Quick Overview

Whether you're replacing an old DSL modem or considering purchasing an add-on wireless router, this all-in-one solution does it all. Why struggle with complex configurations between DSL modems, external routers, and wireless devices? The GT724WGR is three products in one. Setup couldn't be easier—simply plug in your DSL phone line, connect your computer, and click auto-configuration.

Perfect For

Anyone who wants a completely integrated networking solution in one box (DSL modem, wireless networking, and full routing capabilities).

Outstanding Benefits

- High-performance DSL modem with a built-in 4-port 10/100Mbps router and wireless connectivity. It's an instant home network.
- Tested for maximum performance on all major DSL providers including AT&T, Verizon, Qwest, and BellSouth.
- Replaces your need for a service provider modem.
- Easy and quick setup—this device auto-configures itself.
- Built-in commercial-grade firewall and wireless security.
- Backed with excellent customer service and support.
- Manufactured by Actiontec, a leading DSL equipment supplier with over 15 MILLION access devices deployed.

Cooler Feature

The built-in auto-configuration tool works with any type of computer or operating system. You can have your network up and running in minutes!



Notebook Power Adapter

The Power To Travel Light



Wall/Air Ultra Thin Notebook Power Adapter

MSRP: \$149.99

SKU: 8986948

www.kensington.com

Quick Overview

Put your travel bag on a diet. The Kensington Wall/Air Ultra Thin Notebook Power Adapter's low-profile design makes it easy to pack in even your smallest bag, and with a built-in USB power port to charge your MP3 player, mobile phone, PDA, or other mobile device, it's the only adapter you'll need to travel with.

Perfect For

The Kensington Wall/Air Ultra-Thin Notebook Power Adapter is perfect for anyone looking for a mobile power solution a universal notebook power adapter— as well as charger for mobile devices.

Outstanding Benefits

- Slim adapter not only charges your notebook, but it also charges your mobile phone, PDA, iPod and more via the built-in USB power port (USB power tips sold separately)
- Included USB charging cable connects to USB power port to charge mini USB-compatible mobile devices
- Tips included for compatibility with the top selling notebook brands: Dell®, HP®, Compaq®, IBM®, Lenovo™, Toshiba®, Sony®, Gateway®, Acer®
- Color-coded notebook power tips for quick and easy set up
- 30% lighter and 22% thinner than conventional power adapters so it doesn't add extra bulk in your bag

Coollest Feature

The built-in USB power port and included USB charging cable allow you to charge not only your notebook but all of your USB-compatible mobile devices— all with one power adapter!



Power Supply

Reliable, Quiet & Efficient Power For Your PC



BFG GX-550 Power Supply

MSRP: \$99.99

SKU: 9989277

www.bfgtech.com

Quick Overview

Computer enthusiasts know BFG Technologies for making rock-solid graphics cards, but BFG brings the same level of quality to its GX Series power supplies. The 550W PSU has all of the features you'd expect on a cutting-edge power supply, including modular cabling, more than 80% efficiency, and multiple 12V rails.

Perfect For

The gamer whose system includes a mid-to-high-end graphics card and DIY system builders who don't settle for anything less than brand-name parts.

Outstanding Benefits

- Modular cabling lets you use only the power connectors you need, so you don't clutter your case with excess cables.
- With an efficiency as high as 85%, almost all of the power the GX-550 draws from a wall socket will be directly converted to power a PC can use.
- 20+4-pin motherboard and 6+2-pin PCI Express connectors offer the ultimate in flexibility.
- A silent 140mm intake fan keeps the GX-550 running smoothly without making a ruckus.

Cooler Feature

The GX-550 uses BFG Thermal Control Technology, which means it can adjust its intake fan according to the current temperature and load. With this technology, the GX-550 always has the perfect balance of quiet operation and stable performance.

Notebooks

5 Must-Have Accessories

A laptop is a big investment, and now that you've taken the plunge, it's time to decide what you need to go along with your shiny new purchase. We've rounded up five of our favorite accessories that every laptop owner should add to her shopping list. **FC**

BY JOY MARTIN

1 Laptops aren't cheap, so you'll want to protect yours. After splurging on a laptop, the first thing you need to consider is how you're going to protect it. You bought a laptop for its portability, so it's important to buy a good case that can protect it and keep it mobile. Cases are available in a multitude of styles and colors, so you're sure to find one that meets your needs. We especially like laptop bags with wheels and telescoping handles because they're so handy when you are traveling. Look for a bag that is built for your screen size and has plenty of zippered pockets to store your notebook accessories and paperwork.



2 A mouse is easier to work with than a pointing stick. Although laptops are well-suited for working on the go, the touchpad and/or pointing stick (that little nub in the middle of the keyboard that enables you to navigate the on-screen pointer) that replace your desktop computer's mouse can be hard to manipulate. If you prefer a mouse, look for a wired mouse that plugs into your USB port or even a cordless mouse. The sleek design of cordless mice makes them easy to transport, and the USB receivers are small enough to leave plugged in, so your mouse will always be ready when you need it.



3 Surge protectors designed for laptops will offer your notebook PC some much-needed protection from spikes in power. You didn't have to think twice before plugging your desktop computer into a power conditioner or surge protector. But do you take the same precautions every time you use your laptop—no matter where you happen to be? Surge protectors ensure that the electrical current running to the device(s) attached to it doesn't exceed acceptable levels, which can cause serious damage. In fact, a sudden spike in electricity can destroy a laptop, so taking the time to plug into one every time is worth the few seconds it takes. For convenient protection on the go, surge protectors designed specifically for laptops are compact, making them easy to pack away in your laptop bag.



4 Portable USB hubs let you connect a few extra peripherals while you're out of the office. USB ports let you connect all sorts of electronic goodies to your computer, but what if you have more gadgets than ports? A USB hub, such as Dynex's 4-Port USB 2.0 Hub (\$22.99; www.bestbuy.com), is an affordable way to ensure you can connect all of your peripherals. In addition to giving you more ports, cords to items such as a digital camera or music player can be left plugged in on your desk, so they are ready to go next time you use your laptop.











5 An extra battery lets you keep working on the road when you're far away from your charger.

We love laptops for their portability—they let us work without being tethered to a desk. But that flexibility is limited to how long the battery holds a charge. Having an extra battery on hand that's powered and ready to go gives you the ability to work longer, without having to find a power outlet. Batteries vary from laptop to laptop, but with your model number in hand, you can find a replacement for any brand.



Which Notebook Computer Is Best For You?

A notebook computer is a pretty big purchase for most people, and it's usually a bit overwhelming, too. This chart compares the features and specs from several different types of notebook models.

		Operating system	Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Screen size	Dimensions; Weight	Optical drives; Media card reader
What It Means		The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	The diagonal measurement of the notebook's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the laptop weighs	Drives that can read and write discs; Slots that read media cards without a separate peripheral
       	MSI Wind Netbook MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 9078534	Windows XP Home	1.6GHz Intel Atom	120GB; 1GB	10 inches	0.748x10.23x7.08 inches; 2.3 pounds	No; No
	Asus Eee PC 900 BK039X MSRP: \$449.99* SKU 9050206	Windows XP Home	900MHz Intel Celeron	16GB; 1GB DDR2	8.9 inches	1.3x8.9x6.7 inches; 2.2 pounds	No; Yes
	Compaq Presario CQ50-215NR MSRP: \$549.99* SKU 9027698	Windows Vista Home Premium	1.9GHz AMD Athlon X2	160GB; 2GB DDR2	15.4 inches	1.7x14.1x10.2 inches; 6.4 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; No
	Acer Extensa EX4630-4791 MSRP: \$649.99* SKU 9097121	Windows Vista Home Premium	2GHz Intel Premium Dual-Core	250GB; 3GB	14.1 inches	1.6x13.3x9.2 inches; 5.2 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	HP Pavilion dv3510nr MSRP: \$1,199.99* SKU 9027714	Windows Vista Home Premium	2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mobile	320GB; 4GB	14.1 inches	1.2x13.4x9.7 inches; 5 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	Toshiba Satellite E105-S1402 MSRP: \$1,199.99* SKU 9022979	Windows Vista Home Premium	2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mobile	320GB; 4GB	14.1 inches	1.2x13.4x9.7 inches; 5 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	Apple MacBook MB467LL/A MSRP: \$1,599* SKU 9107432	Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard	2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	250GB; 2GB DDR3	13.3 inches	0.95x12.78x8.94 inches; 4.5 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; No
	Sony Vaio VGN-FW298Y/H MSRP: \$1,999.99* SKU 9047006	Windows Vista Home Premium	2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	320GB; 4GB DDR2	16.4 inches	1.46x15.1x10.3 inches; 6.47 pounds	DVD-RW, BD-RW, or BD combo drive; Yes

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which Desktop PC Is Right For You?

When you shop for a desktop PC, you'll see lots of similar deals. The comparison chart below shows how subtle—yet important—the differences can be. If you need further help discerning the differences between these desktops, we suggest you consult an associate at your local CE retailer.

		Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Optical drives	Operating system	Graphics card	Ports
	What It Means	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	Drives that can read and write CD-Rs, DVD-RWs, or HD discs	The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer	Controls the quality of your video and images	Sockets that give your computer access to different peripherals
	eMachines ET1161-03 MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 9077946	2.3GHz AMD Athlon X2	320GB; 3GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	Nvidia GeForce 6150SE	6 USB
	Acer AX3200-U3600A MSRP: \$479.99* SKU 9026957	2.1GHz AMD Phenom X3	320GB; 4GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	Nvidia GeForce 8400	9 USB; 1 FireWire; 1 eSATA; 1 HDMI
	Dell Hybrid-118B MSRP: \$749.99* SKU 8977823	2.16GHz Intel Core Duo	250GB; 3GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	Intel Graph- ics Media Accelerator X3100	6 USB; 1 FireWire
	Dell SMT-117B MSRP: \$899.99* SKU 9017093	2.33GHz Intel Core 2 Quad	1.2TB; 8GB	DVD-RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	ATI Radeon 3450	10 USB; 2 FireWire
	Gateway FX6800-01e MSRP: \$1,249.99* SKU 9081325	2.66GHz Intel Core i7	750GB; 3GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	ATI Radeon HD 4850	10 USB; 2 FireWire
	HP TouchSmart IQ506 MSRP: \$1,499.99* SKU 8883292	2.16GHz Intel Core Duo	500GB; 4GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	Nvidia GeForce 9300 M GS HD	5 USB; 1 FireWire
	Apple MB325LL/A MSRP: \$1,799* SKU 8844726	2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	320GB; 2GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard	ATI Radeon HD 2600 Pro	5 USB; 2 FireWire
	Velocity Micro Edge E2250 MSRP: \$1,999.99* SKU 8782169	2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Quad	750GB; 4GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW/ DVD-ROM	Windows Vista Home Premium	Nvidia EVGA GeForce 9800 GTX	6 USB; 2 FireWire; 1 S-Video; 2 DVI

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Software Listings

Get More Out Of Your PC

Computers can be used to create greeting cards, play games, balance your checkbook, and more. The thing is, most of these functions aren't available straight out of the box. To fully harness your computer's potential, you'll need to buy software. Here are some options.

Art/Illustration/Graphics



Corel Paint Shop Pro Photo X2 Ultimate
\$99.99*
www.corel.com

Professional photo-editing software in an easy-to-use package. The Ultimate version also comes with a bonus pack loaded with free extras.



Adobe Photoshop Elements 7
\$99.99*
www.adobe.com

Photoshop Elements 7 from Adobe makes it easy to fix red-eye, combine photos for the perfect group shot, or tweak the color balance to make your photos look their best.



Roxio Creator 2009
\$99.99*
www.roxio.com

With Roxio's new Creator 2009, preserving your memories has become simpler than ever. You can now easily edit and touch up your photos, create unique DVDs using your home movies, and organize your music collection.



Broderbund The Print Shop 22 Deluxe
\$49.99*
www.broderbund.com

Easily create banners, business cards, letterheads, calendars, photo greeting cards, invitations, and more right from your computer with The Print Shop 22 Deluxe from Broderbund.

Audio/Video



Pinnacle Studio Ultimate Version 12
\$129.99*
www.pinnaclesys.com

Use automated and powerful video- and audio-editing tools to create and share your home movies.



Nero 9
\$99.99*
www.nero.com

Nero 9 can help you perform routine tasks, such as backing up your data, or more advanced tasks, such as enabling you to create professional-looking movies and manage your multimedia files.



Apple iLife '08
\$79*
www.apple.com

Use Apple's popular iPhoto, iWeb, GarageBand, and iDVD on your Mac to organize photos, create a Web site, record music, or edit movies.



Magix Music Maker 14
\$59.99*
www.magix.com

Produce your own music using more than 1,500 sounds, virtual instruments, and power chords. When you're done, use Music Maker 14 to create a music video.

Business Applications



Microsoft Office Standard 2007
\$399.95*
www.microsoft.com

Use all of today's most popular business office applications, including Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Word.



Adobe Acrobat 8 Standard
\$299*
www.adobe.com

Easily create, combine, and manage various PDF documents for your personal or business needs.



Intuit Quicken Home & Business 2008
\$99.99*
www.intuit.com

Manage your money and see where you stand financially with Quicken's newly redesigned Business Center.



Smith Micro Software VMware Fusion
\$79.99*
www.vmware.com

This program lets you run Windows applications on your Intel-based Mac for greater freedom and productivity.

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Games/ Entertainment



**2K Games
Sid Meier's
Civilization IV**
\$29.99*

www.2kgames.com

This addictive strategy game has a multiplayer mode for additional ways to compete against your friends.



**Got Game
Entertainment
Arctic Stud
Poker Run**
\$19.99*

www.gotgameentertainment.com

This game combines the strategy of poker, the thrill of racing, and the explosions of combat in Tournament Elimination, single-player, or multiplayer modes.



**MumboJumbo
Polar
Games**
\$19.99*

www.mumbojumbo.com

In this safe-for-the-whole-family game, four players can compete to see who's the best bowler or golfer.



**SouthPeak
Games
Dream
Pinball 3D**
\$19.99*

www.southpeakgames.com

Play pinball on your computer with six table themes, several ball options, multiball power-ups, and intense visuals and ball physics.

Home Productivity



**Nuance Dragon
NaturallySpeaking
10 Preferred**
\$199.99*

www.nuance.com

Dictate emails, reports, and other documents much faster than you can type and let Dragon NaturallySpeaking do the typing for you.



**Susteen DataPilot
Universal Kit w/
Bluetooth**
\$69.95*

www.susteen.com

Connect your cell phone to your computer or Bluetooth adapter to back up your phone's address book, synchronize your phone book and calendar with Outlook, or use your phone as a wireless modem for your laptop computer.



**Intuit
TurboTax Deluxe
Federal + State**
\$59.95*

www.intuit.com

Simplify doing your taxes this year with TurboTax Deluxe. Customized questions guide you through the process with ease.



**Microsoft
Streets &
Trips 2008**
\$39.95*

www.microsoft.com

Plan your next vacation and share your travel plans with friends who will be joining you along the journey.

Security/ Utilities



**Kaspersky
Labs Internet
Security
2009**
\$79.95*

www.kaspersky.com

Premium protection that's updated hourly to keep your system safe from even the most recent threats.



**Kaspersky
Labs Anti-
Virus 2009**
\$59.99*

www.kaspersky.com

Kaspersky's newly updated Anti-Virus 2009 has added an advanced antivirus engine that increases scan times, giving you even better protection against viruses, Trojans, worms, spyware, adware, and more.



**Webroot Software
Spy Sweeper With
AntiVirus**
\$49.99*

www.webroot.com

Protect up to three computers from viruses and spyware. Spy Sweeper stops both known and potential threats by blocking suspicious activity.



**PC Tools
Spyware Doctor 6**
\$29.95*

www.pctools.com

Surf the Internet with confidence knowing that Spyware Doctor's advanced updating system will prevent both known and emerging spyware threats from reaching your PC.

Backup/ Recovery



**Symantec
Norton Ghost
14.0**
\$69.99*

www.symantec.com

Back up your entire computer or select specific files for backup to ensure you're able to recover from any unforeseen events, such as a crash or virus attack.



**iolo System
Mechanic
Professional**
\$69.95*

www.iolo.com

With System Mechanic, you can find and fix errors and fragmentation on your PC, clean out clutter, and optimize your system for best performance.



**White
Canyon
WipeDrive 5**
\$39.95*

www.whitecanyon.com

When it's time to dispose of your old computer, use White Canyon's WipeDrive to ensure that all traces of your personal information are completely removed.



**McAfee Anti-
Theft File
Protection**
\$29.99*

www.us.mcafee.com

If your PC is ever lost or stolen, McAfee Anti-Theft File Protection will safeguard your personal and confidential files from intruders. Create personal vaults on your PC or USB drive.

Pantech Slate

\$199.99

www.pantechusa.com

Pantech Slate

The Skinny On QWERTY

Thin is most definitely in. Pantech bills its Slate as “the world’s thinnest QWERTY keyboard handset.” Even at less than half an inch thin, this smartphone lets you communicate any way you like without making a bulge in your pocket.

The keyboard tells the story: The Slate is a texting, email, and instant messaging powerhouse, something Kevin can appreciate. The 28-year-old account executive envies the style of his friends’ touchscreen phones, but he’s in touch with his inner texter. Now that he has a full keyboard with the feel of real keys under his thumbs, all that Kevin has to worry about is choosing among AIM, Yahoo!, Windows Live, and other email and IM services.

The Slate’s AT&T MEdia Net mobile Web access means that even on the go, Cheryl will be connected to helpful

services. The fortysomething vice president (and mother of two) is on her way to catch a plane, but first she turns to Yellowpages.com to help her find an electronics store near the airport. She buys an automotive adapter so that when she reaches her destination, she’ll be able to recharge her new cell in her rental car. On the plane, she’ll turn on her Slate’s Flight Mode, which makes the phone airplane-friendly by switching off its RF (radio frequency) transmissions.

Speaking of airplane-friendly, Cheryl’s Slate has turned out to be a welcome companion, thanks to its stellar multimedia capabilities. Its 2.2-inch LCD screen is big enough for personal viewing of her MPEG-4 video. A jog dial on the side makes it easy to find the clips she’s looking for. Later, at a trade show, she’ll snap photos of upcoming products with her Slate’s 1.3-megapixel digital camera (with timer). A particularly exciting gadget must be seen to be

believed, so she captures it in an MPEG-4 video clip with QCIF picture quality.

Meanwhile, college student Katja loves her Slate’s wireless connectivity. When she’s hiking up a steep trail to her archaeology class’s dig site, she uses an optional hands-free Bluetooth 1.2 headset to keep in touch with her fiancé over the quad-band GPRS/EDGE phone. At 3.2 ounces and measuring 4.2 x 2.5 x 0.39 inches (HxWxD), her Slate never becomes a burden on the trail. Katja knows that its battery is good for up to 10 days on standby, with up to three hours of talk time on tap. And with the Slate’s support for ringtones in most popular audio formats, it can put a smile on her face. She knows it’s her fiancé calling when she hears the song they’ve chosen for the first dance at their wedding reception.

Other phones may have memory card support and flashy touchscreens, but the Slate delivers a real keyboard in a super-thin package. **FG**

More Than Just Music

High-End MP3 Players Offer Advanced Features



Whether it's something to entertain you on a lengthy road trip or something to keep your mind occupied while you take the train to work, an

MP3 player is an enjoyable device to have. But what you may not realize is that top-of-the-line MP3 players (sometimes referred to as portable media players) can do much more than play your music.

Catch It Live

MP3 players have come a long way since they first burst onto the scene. One of the newer features high-end players may offer is built-in Wi-Fi capabilities. With a Wi-Fi-enabled MP3 player and a local hotspot, the possibilities are virtually endless. For example, you can stream live content, such as TV shows or Web videos, so you can catch up on your favorite episodes of "The Office" while you are waiting at the doctor's office. You can also listen to Internet radio, check your email, update your Facebook page, and shop online. With some MP3 players, this feature also lets you share media content with others who have the same MP3 player as you.

Many high-end MP3 players also let you enjoy FM radio for times when you get tired of your usual playlist. Or you can listen to the news or your favorite talk radio program while you're sitting in the airport or working out at the gym.

Old Dog, New Tricks

High-end MP3 players are not only incorporating new technologies, but they are also enhancing many standard features. For instance, capacity and battery life of



top-of-the-line players have gotten bigger and better so you can enjoy all types of media for longer. Many MP3 players also support more file formats, meaning you can download more types of media and have a diverse collection of entertainment on hand when you really need it.

Many MP3 players have larger LCD screens with improved color and clarity. More notably, however, is the inception of the touchscreen. Several MP3 players now let you control your media with the

touch of finger, which makes it easier to quickly navigate lengthy playlists.

Better, But Not Bigger

All of these features are being packaged into smaller, lighter, more portable devices, too. This makes it easier for you to slip your media collection into your pocket or purse, so you can have your entertainment anytime, anywhere. **FC**

BY TESSA BRENNEMAN

Essential

THINGS TO KNOW

Mobile Devices

Smartphones

Q How is a smartphone different from a regular phone?

A Smartphones combine the functionalities of a PDA with the functions of a cell phone. As a result, you'll get a variety of programs that can synchronize with your computer.

Q I want a smartphone. Do I need a special service plan?

A Many carriers will require you to purchase a monthly data plan subscription in addition to your voice plan. This data plan will enable you to surf the Internet, check email, and much more.

Q What is an unlocked phone?

A With an unlocked smartphone, you'll have greater freedom to switch carriers and fewer requirements regarding the type of voice and data plans you must purchase. Many manufacturers offer unlocked models.

Air Cards

Q What's an air card?

A An air card is a device that plugs into your laptop and receives wireless signals from cell phone towers to provide you with Internet access when you're away from work, home, and Wi-Fi hotspots.

Q Will my Internet connection with an air card be as fast as my Ethernet connection at home?

A Wired Ethernet (100Mbps) and even 802.11g Wi-Fi (54Mbps) speeds are faster than those you can expect from an air card at this time, but air cards still provide high-speed Internet in places other forms of Internet can't touch.

Q Can my laptop accept an air card?

A If you have a laptop with a PCMCIA, ExpressCard, or PC Card Type II slot, your PC is compatible with an air card. Some air card models even operate via USB connection.



Bluetooth Headsets

Q Why should I buy a Bluetooth headset?

A The primary reason to buy one is pairing it with a compatible cell phone will let you wirelessly make and receive calls through the headset without touching the phone.

Q What call-related features do headsets possess?

A Features can include voice dialing, the ability to share the headset among multiple devices, and support for taking VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) calls.

Q What should I consider about a headset's design?

A Is the headset light enough for long-term wearing? Are the buttons intuitive and easy to find? Does the headset use earhooks or in-ear cushions to stay in place?

Q What techniques do headset makers use for better performance?

A Many makers use dual-microphone designs, which emphasize the user's voice while also canceling background noise. Manufacturers also use echo cancelation, voice isolation, intelligent volume control, and DSP (digital signal processing).

Q Can I listen to songs on my cell phone through a Bluetooth headset?

A Yes, although hearing the songs in stereo means both devices must support Bluetooth profile A2DP (Advanced Audio Distribution Profile), often called stereo Bluetooth. A2DP also enables A2DP-compatible headsets to switch between audio and call functions.

Cases

Q What's the difference between a case and a skin?

A Typically a skin (which can come in plastic, rubber, etc.) protects the entire mobile device without having to detach the device from the skin. A case covers the device when it's not use.

Q I want to be able to press the buttons on my phone without restriction. What type of cover should I buy?

A Look for a cover that wraps around all edges of your cell phone or smartphone, so the buttons remain exposed. Some cases include a plastic face cover to prevent the screen from being scratched, as well.

Q How durable are cases in general?

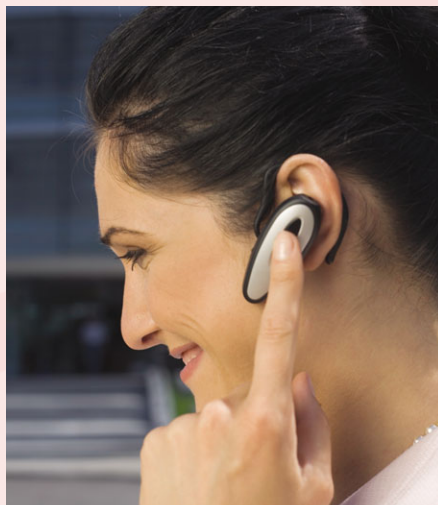
A This depends on what type of case you use. Cases vary in material; you'll see leather, plastic, rubber, and nylon, as well as neoprene "jackets" for athletics. Choose the appropriate case based on how you intend to handle your phone.

Q Will a case keep my mobile device safe from everyday wear and tear?

A Cases won't typically render your mobile device indestructible; however, they will primarily help them weather bumps and bruises.

Q Why should I buy a case for my GPS device?

A A case that features soft interior padding will protect your GPS receiver from scratches and scuffs when it's not in use.





CE Retailers' Mobile Services

One-Stop Convenience

If you've wandered the aisles of your favorite CE retailer, you've likely seen a wireless kiosk or two. What you may not realize is these "stores within a store" can provide many benefits beyond visiting a traditional cell phone carrier's store. Here's a closer look at the mobile services you'll find at CE retailers.

Many Plan Options

In many cases, mobile stores within a CE retailer's store offer services from multiple carriers. This makes it easy for you to directly compare one carrier's plans to another's. On the flip side, if you were at one carrier's wireless store, it'd be highly unlikely that you could get straightforward facts about how its services and plans compare to another carrier. With in-store mobile services from a variety of carriers, you'll get all the facts in one location.

One-Stop Shop

For many of us, it seems that there is never enough time to get everything

done. Because CE retailers frequently offer accessories for all types of phones, you can get everything you need for your new phone—including a memory card, Bluetooth headset, and case—without having to visit another store.

Handheld Comparison

Each carrier offers its own set of handsets to be used on its network. If you're

trying to choose between two phones, you'll be able to compare them side-by-side, pick them up, and interact with them in a mobile store. In addition, you will be able to compare handsets from various carriers. When upgrading phones, many wireless stores can also help transfer your address book from your old phone. **FG**

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

Mobile Service Offerings

Best Buy has rolled out Best Buy Mobile. This joint venture with Carphone Warehouse aims to provide a better mobile phone shopping experience. In addition to many of the benefits listed above, Best Buy Mobile can provide customers with impartial, in-depth information for about eight to 10 carriers and help customers find a carrier that'll best suit their needs. These mobile phone specialists are noncommissioned, so you know you'll get honest input. In addition, Best Buy Mobile's phone experts can help explain the various technologies and services that are available today and show you how those services can fit into your lifestyle.

All of us want to get a good deal without a lot of hassle. Prices for phones through Best Buy Mobile are clearly marked, and you won't have to deal with rebates. Should something go wrong with your phone, Best Buy can provide repair services and loaner phones to help you get back up and running. Finally, because Best Buy offers a number of other products outside the mobile realm, associates can demonstrate how your phone or wireless service can interact with other devices such as your laptop. ●

MP3 Players

5 Must-Have Accessories

Nailing down a list of must-have accessories for an MP3 player is tricky. Just because an iPod dock for the kitchen tops your list, for example, doesn't mean it even cracks an avid jogger's Top 5. Ultimately, though, five general categories stand out, although other notable accessories include extra batteries, cleaning kits, and Bluetooth adapters. **FG**

BY BLAINE FLAMIG

1

Match your earphones to your needs. Sometimes a runner doesn't fare well with earbuds, which fall out because of the constant jostle of running. This is a burden for anyone hoping to get in a good workout. A runner should opt for headphones that are secure, and in this case, an in-the-ear earbud would be the ideal choice. Headphone styles are numerous and include wired/wireless earbuds, which are perfect for people on the go (students, mass-transit users), and earcups, which can satisfy any audiophile's need to hear minute musical details.

2

Portable speakers and docks are perfect for letting the entire group listen to tunes in open areas. Whether you want to listen to Enya as you take shelter from a winter storm or need some musical motivation as you shovel the snow blanketing your driveway, there's no limit to where you can listen to your portable player. Don't let the pair of headphones that came with your player constrain you, either. Most speakers have a dock to recharge your player's battery. Check your MP3 player manufacturer's Web site for model numbers of available speakers and docks.



3

Beam the tunes on your portable music player through your car stereo. If you're motoring about in the family van, music players can provide the soundtrack. You'll need an FM transmitter that plays the tunes on your portable music player over your car radio. Connect the transmitter to your player, select a designated frequency on the radio, tune to that same frequency on your transmitter, and listen to music, movies, podcasts, audio-books, etc. Transmitters range from basic to sophisticated models (providing remote controls and visual interfaces), making it easy to find one that suits your needs.



4

Cases can protect your portable music player from scratches, bumps, water, physical drops, and mishaps that can otherwise shorten your player's life. You decided to treat yourself and buy a high-end MP3 player. Because you've already spent so much, it's only right to assume that you have everything you need, right? Not quite. No matter what type of portable music player you own, it's wise to buy a case to protect it in different environments. Cases are relatively inexpensive (starting at around \$20) and can provide a little protection from minor drops or normal wear and tear. Because cases are designed to work with specific players, check the MP3 player manufacturer's Web site for cases that are compatible.

5

Armbands can mean the difference between a workout you're proud of vs. one that is constantly interrupted by accidental drops and tugging, tangled cords. Without a doubt, music is a huge motivator when it comes to exercise. No matter your sport, an armband that fits around your bicep offers stability for your portable music player and comfort for you. And for workouts that don't jostle your player, such as riding an exercise bike, a lanyard provides an inexpensive, effective alternative to an armband.



Audio System

Someday . . . All Audio Systems Will Work Like This



Chestnut Hill Sound GEORGE Music System

MSRP: \$499.99

SKU: 8556653

www.chillsound.com

Quick Overview

The next step in iPod playback systems, GEORGE has a unique synergy of power, functionality, and style. With the industry's only remote control offering full iPod functionality, there is no better way to browse your personal music library from your place of comfort. Along with the most balanced and accurate sound quality of any tabletop system, GEORGE includes an AM/FM radio and advanced alarm clock features.

Perfect For

Those who want great performance, brilliant sound, and full iPod control without leaving their seat.

Outstanding Benefits

- **RF remote control with large high-resolution display** lets you create music playlists, and use Jump Buttons or Alpha Search to find your favorite tunes without the need to get up from your chair.
- **High-performance AM/FM radio with BANDLESS™ tuning** allows users to mix 24 AM and FM presets, so you can organize them by interest or genre, and with the turn of a single knob, you can listen to AM or FM.
- **Digital Clock with programmable alarms** allows user to schedule by day or week, as well as select source and adjust volume settings. Wake up to tone, radio, or any iPod song selection

Coollest Feature

The ergonomic and **unique remote control** features a large, 2.5-inch LCD that gives you complete control over your iPod's different functions.



Wireless PC & iPod Speaker

Wireless Audio Freedom For Your Digital Lifestyle



Mint 220 Wireless Digital Music Station

MSRP: \$134.99

SKU: 8750336

www.mintds.com

Quick Overview

A cool, new way to listen to all audio from your computer! The Mint high-fidelity iPod dock speaker comes with a USB Wireless Audio Card that connects to your PC or Mac, which means you can enjoy all of your music content from online and from your computer's music players, completely unattached from the speaker. Simply plug the USB Audio Card into your computer and stream all of your audio wirelessly—with zero loss of fidelity—up to 45 feet.

Perfect For

Any PC/iPod owner who craves crisp, room-filling sound without sacrificing portability.

Outstanding Benefits

- **Lossless 2.4GHz wireless audio streaming** with the included USB Wireless Audio Card, no extra software needed
- **Precise, high-fidelity audio** thanks to patented digital engineering and sealed enclosure design
- **Multimedia versatility** through the audio mini-jack (Line-in) port—enjoy sound from your MP3 players, games, and much more

Coollest Feature

Plug-and-Play Wireless Connectivity:

1. Plug the Mint USB Wireless Audio Card into your computer's USB port.
2. Play any of your music players or Internet music/videos on your computer.
3. Enjoy the high-fidelity Mint sound wirelessly from across the room. That's as simple as it can get.



iPhone & iPod Speaker

Premium Versatility In A Portable Stereo System



Altec Lansing iMT702
inMotion MAX

MSRP: \$199.95

SKU: 8948918

www.alteclansing.com

Quick Overview

Go anywhere and take your music with you. Either battery powered or plugged in, the inMotion Max churns out lush stereo sound from your iPhone or iPod, or from the unit's built-in FM radio. XdB technology supplies the deep bass without a subwoofer. And ESS sound-widening technology expands the sound to fit any room. And the inMotion Max lets you take calls from your iPhone.

Perfect For

Those with an ear for sound and want their music no matter where they are!

Outstanding Benefits

- **Crystal-clear Sound** – Precision-matched speakers with ESS and XdB audio technologies deliver crisp, full-spectrum sound
- **FM Radio** – Features 4 station presets and wire antenna for superior reception. LCD displays song and FM station data
- **Rechargeable Battery** – The Li-Ion battery provides up to 3.5 hours of playing time
- **Perfect for Travel** – Folds up compactly and can serve as a wake-up call by enabling the iPhone and iPod alarm and sleep timer
- **Auxiliary Input** – Connect a second audio source via 3.5mm input jack

Coollest Feature

The inMotion MAX is immune to mobile phone interference so your iPhone can stay on, always ready to take calls. The music automatically pauses when a call rings in and resumes when finished.



Internet Radio

The World's Most Advanced Personal Radio Player



Slacker G2 Personal Radio Player

MSRP: Slacker G2 25 Stations (4GB) \$199.99**

SKU: 9069134

MSRP: Slacker G2 40 Stations (8GB) \$249.99**

SKU: 9069143

www.slacker.com

Quick Overview

The sleek, ultra-portable Slacker G2 plays unlimited free music that's personalized just for you. Whether you listen to one of over 100 expert-programmed Slacker radio stations or custom stations that you create, the music evolves as you listen. New songs are personally selected for you and automatically loaded on the Slacker G2 via Wi-Fi so your radio stations are always ready to play wherever you go. Plus, you can read album reviews and artist bios with every song.

Perfect For

Music lovers who want unlimited free access to millions of songs.

Outstanding Benefits

- Listen to unlimited free music* from all of the major labels and thousands of independent labels
- Store up to 40 Slacker radio stations and your MP3 files
- Built-in Wi-Fi auto refreshes Slacker stations with new music
- Listen to music, even if the player isn't connected to a network
- Select stations from any Mac or PC and connect at Wi-Fi hotspots
- 2.4-inch color display displays album art, reviews, and artist bios
- Rechargeable battery delivers up to 15 hours of playback

Coollest Feature

Use the **personalization buttons** on the Slacker G2 to further customize your stations. The more you listen and give feedback, the better the music gets.

* Free, ad-supported service allows access to entire Slacker music library and six track skips per hour, per station.

**Prices are current as of January 1st, 2009

ZOOM

Digital Recorder Brilliant Stereo Recording



Zoom H2 Handy Recorder

MSRP: \$179.99

SKU: 8890293

www.zoomh2.net

Quick Overview

The portable H2 Handy Recorder has the ability to effortlessly record anything with unparalleled depth and clarity. While most digital recorders have fixed recording angles, the H2 allows you to set your mic patterns to the best configuration for the situation. This added flexibility means you will always be ready to capture the moment and get the best possible sound.

Perfect For

Recording musical performances, songwriting sessions, or rehearsals. Also great for podcasters, journalists, event planners, Web designers and even law professionals.

Outstanding Benefits

- Four high-quality condenser microphones allow you to capture two-channel, four-channel, or 360-degree recordings
- Built-in USB 2.0 interface connects you to a PC or other USB devices
- Records in WAV 96kHz/48kHz/44.1kHz at 16- or 24-bit rates, as well as MP3 to 320kbps, and VBR (variable bit rate) data formats
- Time Stamp and Track Marker functions allows easy access to specific points in and label your audio recordings
- 512MB SD card included; can use up to 16GB SD or SDHC memory cards
- Auto gain control adjusts recording levels in variable audio settings; Auto start means you're always ready to capture the moment.

Coollest Feature

Select the four-channel recording mode to **convert your digital audio into 5.1 Surround Sound**. No other digital audio recorder offers this capability!

USB Microphone

The Make-Music-Now Vocal Recording Studio



M-Audio Producer USB Microphone with Session Recording Software

MSRP: \$99.99

SKU: 8437159

www.m-audio.com

Quick Overview

Session™ Music Producer is the make-music-now vocal studio for your PC. M-Audio Session software lets you make professional-sounding songs and remixes the first time you open the box—even if you've never recorded a note before. And the included Producer USB microphone is the perfect way to add top-quality vocals to the mix. Session Music Producer delivers everything you need to turn your PC into a complete recording studio.

Perfect For

Someone wanting an easy-to-use, complete package for making music in minutes.

Outstanding Benefits

- Find just the right content using the intuitive, context-sensitive browser to filter by instrument type, musical style, and other qualities
- Audition multiple clips in the browser simultaneously
- Record instrument tracks using the built-in Syntax sample-based software synthesizer with 800MB of instrument samples, 260+instrument presets, full 128-sound General MIDI sound set, and semi-modular design with full editing capabilities
- Unlimited audio and instrument track playback
- Record up to two audio tracks and one instrument track simultaneously

Coollest Feature

Create music in minutes with drag-and-drop loops complete with automatic tempo and pitch matching—2GB loop library included.

BlackBerry Storm™



Smartphone

World's First Touch Screen BlackBerry® Smartphone Exclusively From Verizon Wireless



BlackBerry® Storm™
9530 Smartphone

MSRP: To Be Determined

SKU: 9118929

www.blackberrystorm.com

www.verizonwireless.com/storm



Quick Overview

With cutting-edge multimedia capabilities and a sleek design, the BlackBerry Storm smartphone makes a great impression no matter where you're headed. The BlackBerry Storm smartphone's unique touch screen allows you to accurately navigate its advanced features, such as a media player, 3.2MP camera, and a full HTML browser. Plus you'll be able to enhance your productivity with the ability to view and edit MS Word®, Excel®, and PowerPoint® files.

Perfect For

Those who want to play as hard as they work.

Outstanding Benefits

- Touch and Click. A touch screen that allows you to be as accurate as ever, with SurePress™.
- Wireless email, instant messaging and text messaging (SMS and MMS).
- Watch streaming video and navigate the web at 3G speeds.
- Built-in GPS with BlackBerry® Maps and VZ Navigator™ capable.
- Easy-to-use 3.2 megapixel camera.
- Built-in media player to listen to music and watch videos.
- BroadbandAccess Connect capable.
- Bluetooth® capability and built-in speakerphone.
- Email and browse the Internet in over 150 countries.

Coollest Feature

The **SurePress™ touch screen** uses groundbreaking touch and click response functionality so you can feel your selections as you make them.

* BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType® and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Subject to Customer Agmt & Calling Plan. Device capabilities: Add'l charges & conditions apply. Coverage not available everywhere.

FirstGlimpse

JAWBONE®

Wireless Bluetooth® Headset Your Personal Noise Assassin™



Jawbone

MSRP: \$129.99

SKU: 8835585

www.jawbone.com

Quick Overview

The Jawbone® Bluetooth headset has the unique ability to eliminate background noise so you can hear and be heard in any environment—from the office to the store to the gym. And with new hands-free driving laws being enforced in states across the country, a Jawbone is quickly becoming a must-have.

Perfect For

Those who covet the perfect blend of form and function. Individuals who demand the highest performance but do not want to compromise style and beauty to achieve it.

Outstanding Benefits

- Patented NoiseAssassin™ Technology: Jawbone *literally* feels your speech with its Voice Activity Sensor (VAS), which distinguishes the sound of your voice and cancels ambient background noise
- Simple to use: Two streamlined buttons control all of the headset's functions
- Design: Made with premium materials and includes customized earbud fit options to provide a premium visual and ergonomic experience

Coollest Feature

Jawbone's **patented NoiseAssassin™ technology** separates speech from ambient noise, providing unparalleled call clarity in all environments.

WIRELESS



GPS

Your Favorites At Your Fingertips™



Magellan®
Maestro™ 4370

MSRP: \$399.99

SKU: 9039257

www.magellangps.com

Quick Overview

Effortless navigation! The Magellan® Maestro™ 4370's new OneTouch™ feature gives you instant access to your favorite places and searches. Simply customize the OneTouch menu to display the points of interest you want easy access to—restaurants, banks, businesses, and so many more.

Perfect For

GPS users who want to be in control of their travel experiences and want easy access to their favorite places available at the touch of their fingertips.

Outstanding Benefits

- **4.3" WVGA color touchscreen** provides clear, crisp on-screen graphics and seamless touch panel
- **OneTouch menu** lets you create shortcuts to your favorite destinations, points of interest, and searches
- **Announces street names** and directions at each turn
- **Bluetooth® compatibility** enables hands-free calling with compatible phones
- **Lane guidance** for confident highway driving
- **Pedestrian mode** allows you to continue on your route once you've parked your car

Coollest Feature

The customizable OneTouch™ menu truly enables you to make your Maestro 4370 device your own.

Which MP3 Player Is Best For You?

Pods are cool, sure, but you have other choices when it comes to listening to your tunes. This chart compares the most important—and coolest—features from select MP3 players.

		Memory type	Capacities	Songs	Video; FM tuner capabilities	Colors	Battery life
What It Means		Hard drive (moving parts, more capacity) or flash (no moving parts)	How much memory the player has (on models available at Best Buy)	Based on four-minute songs at 128Kbps, the number a player can hold	Some MP3 players can play video or let you listen to radio stations	Several players offer a variety of color choices	How long the battery will last when playing music
	SanDisk Sansa Clip MSRP: \$79.99* SKU 8753976	Flash	4GB	2,000 (WMA)	Only an FM tuner	Silver	15 hours
	SanDisk Sansa Fuze MSRP: \$79.99*; \$99.99*; \$129.99* SKU 8753789	Flash	2GB; 4GB; 8GB	500; 1,000; 2,000	Both	Black, red, pink, blue	24 hours
	Apple iPod nano MSRP: \$149*; \$199* SKU 8772964	Flash	8GB; 16GB	2,000; 4,000 (AAC)	Only video	Silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, red, pink	24 hours
	Microsoft Zune 8GB MSRP: \$149.99* SKU 9008502	Flash	8GB	2,000	Both	Blue, green	24 hours
	Philips GoGear SA5285BT/37 MSRP: \$149.99* SKU 9011598	Flash	8GB	N/A	Both	Black	30 hours
	Samsung P2 MSRP: \$199.99*; \$249.99* SKU 8627961	Flash	4GB; 8GB	N/A	Both	Black, burgundy	30 hours
	Apple iPod touch MSRP: \$229*; \$299*; \$399* SKU 8772063	Flash	8GB; 16GB; 32GB	1,750; 3,500; 7,000 (AAC)	Only video	Black	36 hours
	Apple iPod classic MSRP: \$249* SKU 8772036	Hard drive	120GB	30,000 (AAC)	Only video	Black, silver	36 hours

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Which GPS Device Is Right For You?

One of the hottest CE devices around right now is a GPS device, and what a useful device it is, too. Here, we compare some models available on today's market. All of these units come with maps already loaded, and you can purchase additional maps, as well.

		Screen size; Dimensions	Text-to- speech; Traffic receiver	Preloaded maps	WAAS	Bluetooth; MP3 play- back	Included charging adapters
	What It Means	The diagonal measurement of the screen; Height x width x depth	Unit calls out specific street names; Unit receives traffic updates and re-routes accordingly	The regional maps that come included with the GPS unit	A satellite and ground station system that gives exceptional GPS accuracy	Some units communicate wirelessly with other Bluetooth devices or play MP3s	AC adapters plug into the wall; DC adapters plug into your car's cigarette lighter
	TomTom ONE 130 MSRP: \$149.99* SKU 8774463	3.5 inches; 3.8x3.2x1 inches	No; No	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	No; No	DC adapter
	Garmin nüvi 260 MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 8474279	3.5 inches; 2.8x3.8x0.8 inches	Yes; No	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico)	No	No; No	DC adapter
	Insignia NS-CNV10 MSRP: \$399* SKU 8947287	3.5 inches; 3.21x4x0.9 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico)	Yes	No; Yes	DC adapter; AC adapter
	Magellan RoadMate 1430 MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 9039266	3.5 inches; 3.2x3.6x0.6 inches	Yes; No	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	Yes	No; No	DC adapter
	TomTom GO 730 MSRP: \$449.95* SKU 8774533	4.3 inches; 3.3x4.7x1 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	Yes; Yes	DC adapter
	Insignia NS-CNV20 MSRP: \$499* SKU 8947312	4.3 inches; 3.21x4.68x0.9 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico)	Yes	Yes; No	DC adapter; AC adapter
	Magellan Maestro 4370 MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 9039257	5 inches; 4.65x3.26x0.7 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	Yes	Yes; Yes	DC adapter; AC adapter
	Garmin nüvi 765T MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 8956089	4.3 inches; 3x4.8x0.8 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	Yes; Yes	DC adapter

*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

Warm Her Heart, Not The Atmosphere

Valentine's Day is near, and what better way to cut the heat in your relationship, and we mean the energy bill, than with an Energy Star-certified device? She'll appreciate your Earth-conscious thoughtfulness, and you can put your savings toward more important things, such as a romantic date and flowers.



Insignia 52" 1080p Flat-Panel LCD HDTV

Perfect for an impromptu
movie date at home.
\$1,499.99



Canon PIXMA Multifunction Printer/Copier/ Scanner

Bring your love letters
into the digital age.
\$149.99



AT&T DECT 6.0 Expandable Cordless Phone with Bluetooth Capability

Wirelessly speak to the one
you're hung up on.
\$89.99



HP Pavilion Laptop With AMD Turion™ X2 Dual-Core Mobile Technology TL-60

Stay connected at the hip
at all times.
\$699.99



Dell Crystal 22" Widescreen Flat-Panel LCD Monitor

A monitor that's sure to
display your affection.
\$1,199.99



Haier 12,000 BTU Window Air Conditioner

In case things get a
little too steamy.
\$299.99

Get All The Details

on new CE products with *First Glimpse's* product profile sections

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